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New centre focused on alleviating back pain

Common Spinal Disorders Research Centre opens on campus

By Caitlin Crawshaw

"(Back pain) has a huge financial impact. In 1990 alone, one year in the U.S. alone, they spent \$90.7 billion on back pain. So it's a huge problem."

— Dr. Greg Kawchuk

It's the leading cause of lost work hours and can affect everyone from energetic school children to middle-aged office workers. But while lower-back pain is common, further research is needed to fully understand it, say the members of a new research centre.

"This isn't an elderly condition, and this isn't a middle-aged condition," said Dr. Greg Kawchuk, one of the principal investigators at the Common Spinal Disorders Research Centre, in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

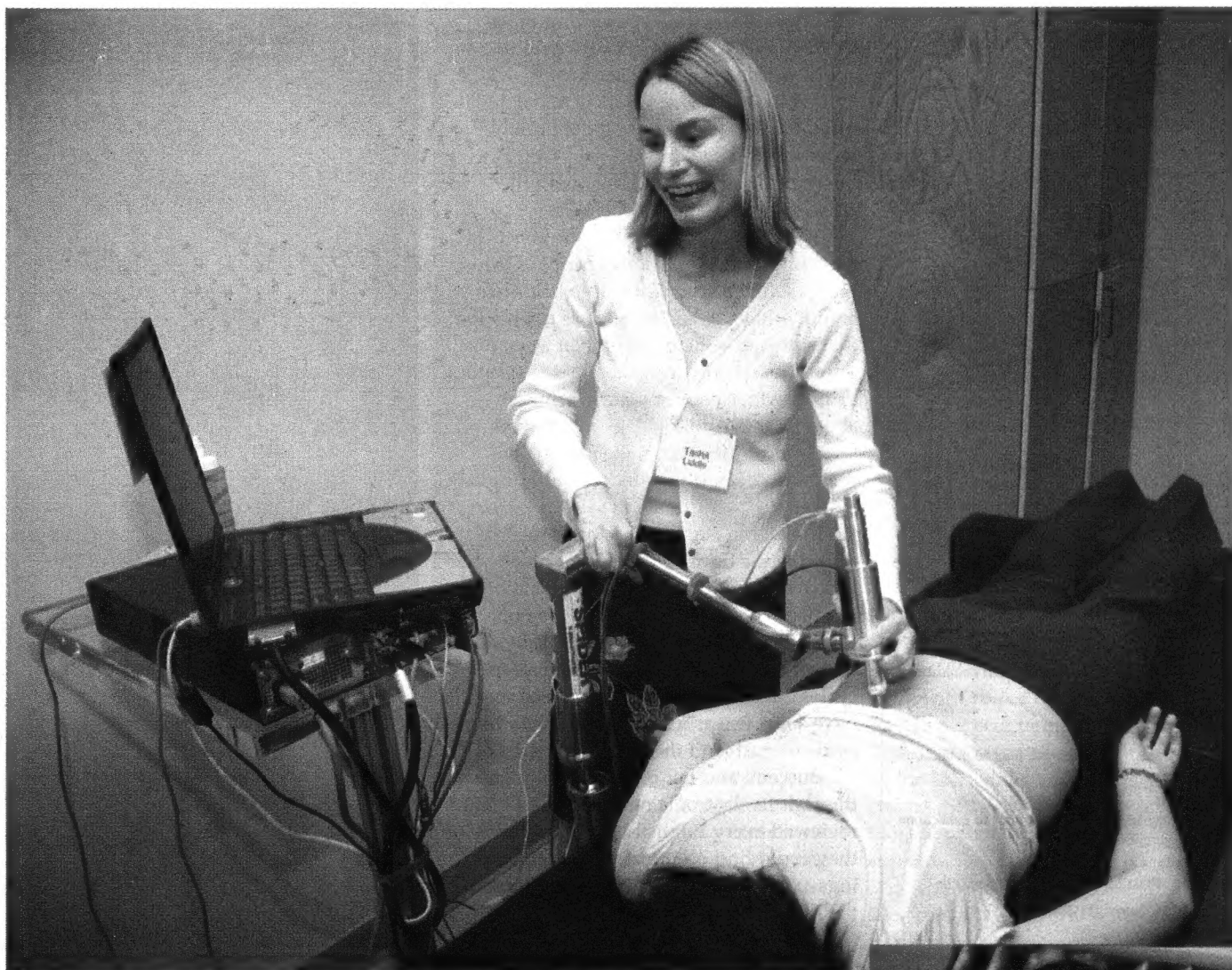
He added that more than 80 per cent of adults experience back or neck pain or both in a six-month period.

"That has a huge financial impact. In 1990 alone, one year in the U.S. alone, they spent \$90.7 billion on back pain. So it's a huge problem."

The new centre is housed at the University of Alberta's Corbett Hall and provides research space for five principal investigators and their research teams, including its director, Dr. Michele Crites-Battie, Kawchuk, Dr. Allyson Jones and Dr. Doug Gross.

All five study spinal disorders - a collection of different conditions that cause back pain and problems using the back - from a number of different clinical perspectives, including physiotherapy, medicine and psychology.

"While it's becoming more commonplace out in the community that these different professions will work together to try to help someone with back pain, it hasn't yet happened as often in the research community," said Kawchuk, who



Graduate student Tasha Liddle demonstrates an ultrasonic indenter at the opening of the Common Spinal Disorders Research Centre at its opening in January. The device helps researchers measure the stiffness of the spine. (Inset) Centre director Dr. Michele Crites-Battie.

holds the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in spinal function. "We've created what we think is a very innovative approach, in that we bring these different professions together, and the different perspectives they have."

Crites-Battie, who holds a CRC in common spinal disorders, noted the centre also offers new opportunities for students.

"One thing that's exciting about this new space is that we bring all of our stu-

dents together in the same open working space, so that they have access to one another, and they're tremendous resources to one another," she said.

"They're at different levels of training, with different backgrounds, and they have access to all of us, because we're here in the same space too," she said, adding that shared seminars for all graduate students is another way learning is assisted by cross-disciplinary collaboration. ■



Photos: Richard Siemens

Bad behaviour grows as income stays small

Kids in low-income family prone to increasing amounts of anti-social behaviour

By Phoebe Dey

Growing up poor can affect a child's behaviour, according to new research from the University of Alberta.

Children in low-income families start off with higher levels of anti-social behaviour than children from more advantaged households, said Dr. Lisa Strohschein, author of the study. And if the home remains poor as the children grow up, anti-social behaviour worsens considerably over time compared to children living in households that are never poor or later move out of poverty.

"In other words, the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour are found in kids whose parents start and stay in the highest income bracket while their kids grow up," said Strohschein, a professor of sociology at the U of A.

While the findings show the effects of

low income at an early age on anti-social behaviour - conduct such as bullying, being cruel, breaking things, cheating or telling lies - persist as kids get older, it seems to have the opposite influence on depression. The effects of starting off in a low-income household on child depression lessen as time goes on, regardless of later income levels. The research is published in the current issue of the Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

"These findings might mean that anti-social behaviour is an example of biological embedding - it is possible that poverty early in life helps to set into motion a consistent pattern of antisocial behaviours that are difficult to change once learned," said Strohschein. This finding supports at least one developmental theory which suggests that early childhood constitutes a sensitive period of development and insults suffered during this time are likely to have long-lasting effects on child development.

Strohschein used the data from an American survey, the Child Supplement of the National Longitudinal Study of Youth, to study the mental health status of more than 7,000 children. Between 1986 and 1998, more than 3,300 mothers reported on the health of their kids - age four to 14

"These findings might mean that anti-social behaviour is an example of biological embedding - it is possible that poverty early in life helps to set into motion a consistent pattern of antisocial behaviours that are difficult to change once learned."

— Dr. Lisa Strohschein

- and were re-interviewed as many as six times during that span.

She also found that changes in income are associated with changes in child mental health. If household income improves after early childhood, child mental health improves. Conversely, drops in income increase depression and anti-social behaviour.

However, Strohschein notes the effects of these income histories on child mental health are not large. "It may be that the



Study author Dr. Lisa Strohschein.

things that are associated with loss of income such as parental divorce and unexpected job loss are much more important. In the future, it will be important to explore how such events intersect with income loss to affect child mental health." ■

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A wake-up call to melatonin users

The popular sleep aid might not be effective after all, says study

By Ileiren Byles

New research at the University of Alberta is debunking the hype around melatonin, one of the most popular natural supplements for sleep disorders.

"There really is no evidence that melatonin is effective in treating the populations we were looking at," said Dr. Nina Buscemi, a research associate with the U of A Department of Pediatrics.

The researchers looked at the effects of melatonin on two groups of people. One group suffered secondary sleep disorders - an underlying condition such as depression, that's probably the cause of their sleep disorder. The second group comprised people dealing with sleep restrictions brought about by things like jet lag or shift work.

Some of the studies the researchers reviewed focused on children suffering secondary sleep disorders.

Melatonin is a human hormone produced in the brain by the pineal gland. Discovered about 40 years ago, melatonin has been called the 'darkness' hormone. Production increases at night, falls by day, and affects our internal clock and sleep cycles. Melatonin has been assumed to have some use as a sleeping pill, but the evidence just isn't there, Buscemi says.

Buscemi and her colleagues ploughed through 13 electronic databases, and reviewed every English-language study they could find on melatonin. Their findings are published in the online edition of the *British Medical Journal*.

"Number one, you look at the statistical significance of the findings and the magnitude of the findings. Was there a statistically significance difference between the group who took the melatonin and the group who took the placebo? And if there was, how big was the difference?" said Buscemi. "You may get a result that shows a small difference but it may not be clinically important. You may get a result that shows a two-per-cent increase in sleep efficiency in people taking melatonin. But what is that? Ten more minutes of sleep within an eight-hour period? How important is that, really?"

There's still need for more work on the



Dr. Nina Buscemi's research indicates that there aren't scientific grounds to support the use of melatonin as an effective treatment for sleep problems.

topic said Buscemi.

"There haven't been a lot of studies on melatonin. And the sample sizes we're looking at are pretty small - the secondary sleep disorders conclusions are based on 97 participants. There were 427 participants in the sleep-restriction disorders data," she said. "We can be more confident that melatonin is safe for short-term use - based on a sample size of 651 participants but we don't have any data on

the effects of long-term use."

Sleep disorders are a widespread issue in North America, and place a heavy burden on society through their impact on quality of life, safety, productivity and health care, write the study's authors.

"We all want good sleep so we can function the next day," said Buscemi. "And it's not just about quantity and whether you get eight hours or not. It's about the quality of your sleep." ■

Riding with 5-0

At the end of the day, the men and women of Campus Security Services (CSS) are just getting started. Folio writer Tyson Kaban rode along on a CSS patrol to find out what's involved in keeping the university safe – 24 hours a day.

By Tyson Kaban

It's 10:15 p.m., the beginning of a Saturday nightshift, and Nelson Presley is patrolling campus in his squad car. The streets are quiet, so he drives over to SUB for a quick walkthrough of the main-floor, before checking out RATT. Everything's fine and he heads back to his vehicle just in time to hear a call coming over the radio.

There's a non-U of A event happening at the Saville Centre and one of his fellow officers is reporting that, at the moment, everything is okay, but since alcohol is involved, there's potential for problems later in the evening.

Presley takes note. Another call comes in, on-campus. It's 11:21 p.m. and someone has reported an unconscious male lying on the ground in front of Newton Place. Even before arriving on the scene, Presley assumes with great certainty that it's probably a student who's gotten carried away and had too much to drink.

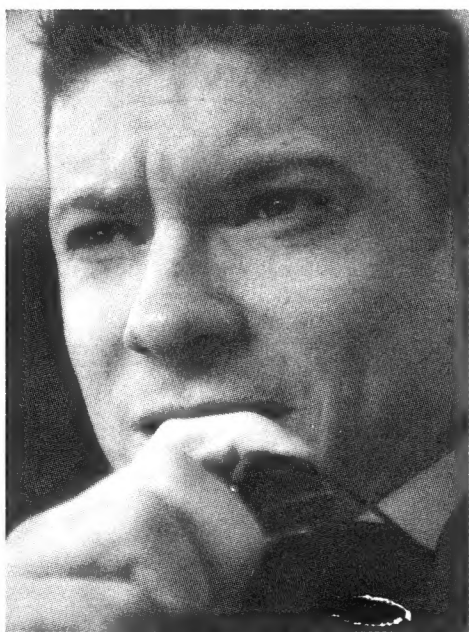
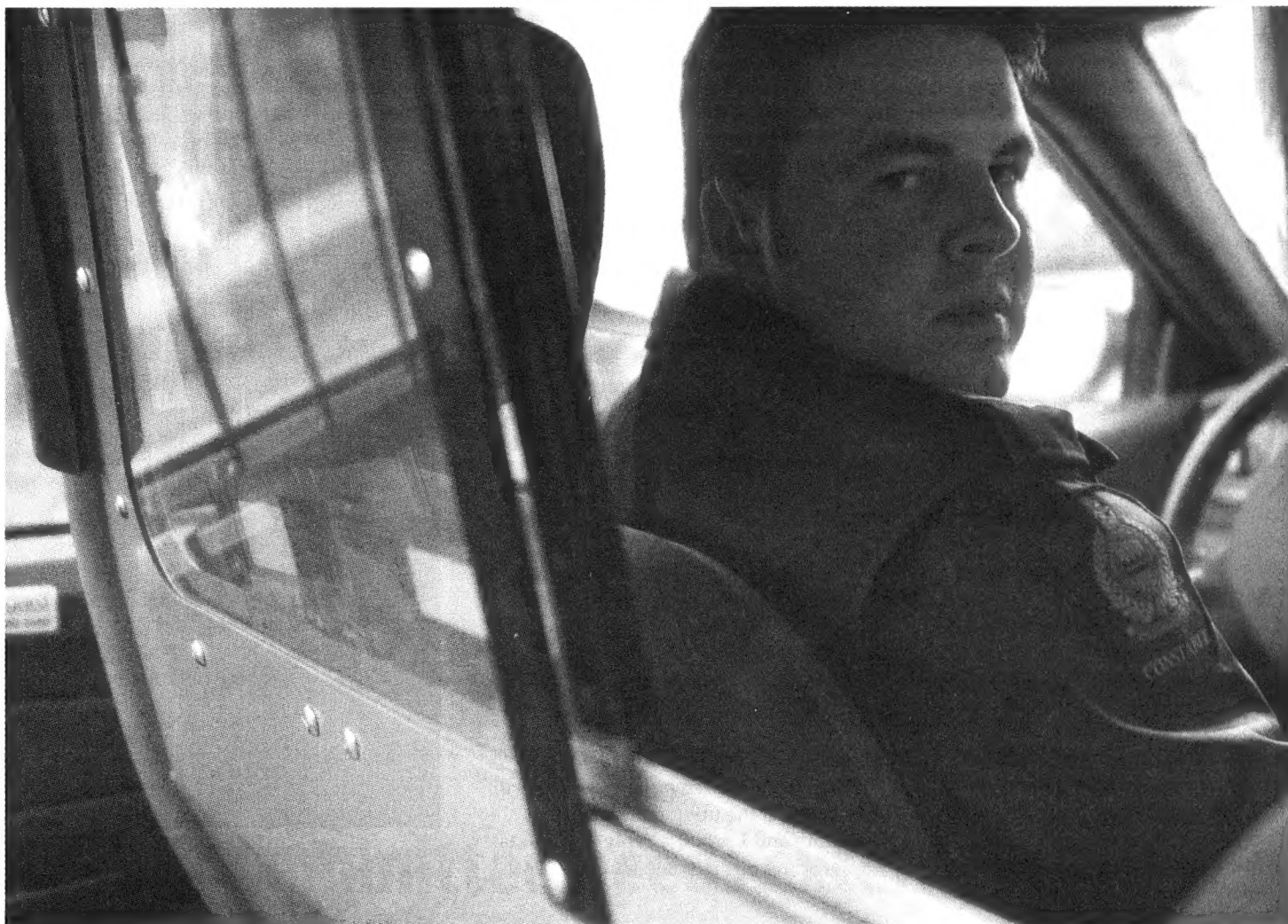
"We get a lot of first-aid calls, and many of them are for students who've drunk themselves silly," he says. "But it's understandable. For most of these kids who are 17-, 18- 19-years-old, it's their first time away from home and it takes a lot for them to adjust to this newfound freedom and responsibility."

Once on the scene, Presley steps out of the patrol car and clearly identifies himself to the young man, who is clearly intoxicated but now on his feet, hanging onto a friend to stay vertical. After checking the young man's ID, Presley quickly establishes that he lives nearby and is affiliated with the university. After a stern warning, Presley offers him a ride home in the patrol car instead of sending the young man away in a cab. At his residence, the intoxicated male incoherently, yet graciously, thanks Presley for all of his help and concern, and walks into his house to sleep the night off.

Intoxication, whether from alcohol or drugs, is one of the most common student-related problems CSS has to deal with. Overwhelmed by heightened levels of stress, newfound independence and the sheer shock students experience after being dropped into a large university environment, some students don't have the skills or experience to effectively navigate these challenges, says Presley.

"Students are here for a reason. They're here to better themselves – to make their lives better and to go on and do something constructive. They're on the train, riding the rails," he says. "But occasionally they fall off the rails. People make mistakes and errors in judgment, usually based on their age, maturity, level of intoxication, mental state. And at that point, our job is not to make them pay for their mistakes, but to put them back on the rails."

That is one of the key differences between CSS and a law enforcement organization like the Edmonton Police Service. At the U of A, students are subjected to the consequences as laid out by the student code of behaviour, whereas EPS would lay charges with most likely permanent, legal ramifications. Both organizations extensively train their recruits in areas of physical defense, situational strategy and legal education (Presley teaches a course called "verbal judo," to arm officers with the language skills to defuse conflict situations) but obviously with different applications in mind. CSS officers are only armed with a defense baton and primarily depend on their intellect and verbal skills to diffuse a situation – though they don't hesitate to call EPS a situation escalates.



(Top) Sgt. Clay Hilbert at the wheel. (Left) Sgt. Hlushak on the radio. (Right) A view of campus through the back of the cruiser.

The night continues and Presley says it's uncharacteristically quiet for a Saturday. But the moment the words leave his mouth, he spots a large group of students flooding out from International House. He turns on the flashing lights and drives up to the residence. The fire alarm is blaring and minutes later, five trucks packed with geared-up firefighters roll up. It turns out to be a false alarm. Someone has apparently discharged a fire-extinguisher, setting off a smoke alarm (Presley says pranks and vandalism are another fairly common student problem). Luckily, it's only 12:30 a.m. and most of the students who live in I-House are still awake, cramming for midterms.

After the incident, it's time for Presley to transport a student auxiliary officer off the central campus, since the officer is scheduled to oversee the closing of the beer gardens and patrol the Saville Centre until the next morning. Upon arrival, both Presley and the auxiliary officer notice a lot of cars in the parking lot and a considerable number of intoxicated patrons within the centre. Concerned, they call another

full-time, mobile constable on duty to monitor the parking lot. An hour after last call, both officers usher everyone out of the licensed banquet area, and Presley goes back to his car, leaving the student officer to monitor the lobby.

Once in the patrol car, Presley observes two vehicles – a car and truck – running through a stop sign and immediately goes into action, flipping on the flashing lights and speeding down the dirt road. The other officer pulls over the car and Presley catches up and pulls over the truck. It quickly becomes clear that both drivers are extremely intoxicated. Presley and his partner issue both drivers 24-hour suspensions and \$300 tickets for running the stop sign.

After 30 minutes worth of paperwork, two tow trucks arrive and take the vehicles away to be impounded. The intoxicated motorists are sent home in a cab. While pulling over drunk drivers is too often a regular occurrence for Presley, he explains that, like tonight's incidence, the majority of infractions CSS must deal with don't come from the university's student and faculty population.

"We deal with what I call the 90-10 principle. Ninety per cent of our work is done with 10 per cent of the population. The 10 per cent being the criminal element that comes on campus from Whyte Ave or the LRT; violent offenders, people on crystal meth, the really bad guys, and guys like the people we just pulled over," he explains.

"The 90 per cent are the students, and they're a relatively minor issue in comparison."

"But look at it this way: It's my job, to the best of my abilities, to make sure these students graduate and finish what they've started here at the university. Sometimes that means helping them back onto the rails, and other times it's making sure they're safe and protected from that criminal element. Either way, we're still making a difference every day they'll be on campus."

Now it's 3:06 a.m., and Presley is heading back to the main campus. He and the other officers on shift still have four more hours left before they can go home. Like every other night, they have no idea what's going to come next. ■

Furniture fit for a president

Design students lend their talents to President Samarasekera's office suite

By Caitlin Crawshaw

What's six feet tall, steel, and shaped like a lotus?

The answer, of course, is the president's new coat rack. Designed by Brett Carlyle for a senior-level furniture design course, the piece was combined with several other student-designed furniture pieces for the office of University of Alberta President Dr. Indira Samarasekera.

For Carlyle, the Design 576 project last fall was his first opportunity to work for a client of such stature. As with any design project, the goal was to combine art and function in an innovative way, while meeting the client's needs.

"We wanted to be innovative and show our individuality, but still design objects that would work in the office," said Carlyle, who recently graduated from the U of A's industrial design program.

Carlyle said he worked with a contemporary aesthetic in mind but also drew from what he knew about the president.

"I did a lot of research to find out where she came from, her background," said the budding designer. "I came across something that said she'd always had a love for the arts...and I found out she was from Sri Lanka, and the lotus flower is a pretty important cultural icon there."

With this in mind, Carlyle created a slender, metal coat rack inspired by the beauty of the flower.

The pieces that appear in Samarasekera's office were chosen by a jury, said course instructor Tim Antoniuk. "It wasn't as simple as a student coming up with something they think is neat," he said.

While not all of the pieces were used,

"It is great fun for me to discuss the genesis of our lobby furniture with my guests. Invariably, guests will comment on the unique design of the furniture and I proudly reply that it was designed by our talented students."

— Dr. Indira Samarasekera

Antoniuk emphasized that all students benefited from the process of designing a project with a particular client's needs in mind, since all designers must learn how to work with clients.

"It's always a challenge in academia to integrate theory with real-world settings and clients," he said.

For Samarasekera, the furniture is not only aesthetically pleasing but is also a source of pride.

"It is great fun for me to discuss the genesis of our lobby furniture with my guests," she said. "Invariably, guests will comment on the unique design of the furniture and I proudly reply that it was designed by our talented students." ■



Recent industrial design graduate Brett Carlyle shows off his contribution to President Indira Samarasekera's office, a coat rack inspired by the lotus flower.

Readers and judges judge Folio

Theme issue earns high marks for value, judges award paper a silver medal

By Richard Cairney

A regional newspaper competition and a readership survey have given Folio good grades, with room for improvement.

Folio has been awarded a silver medal in the Council for the Advancement of Secondary Education (CASE) District VIII newspaper competition. Members in the district come from Western Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

Judges cited effective front-page design, use of photography and illustrations as well as solid writing and editorial content in awarding the medal. Folio was the only newspaper entry deemed worthy of a medal.

And Folio's own readers have a similar impression of the newspaper, according to a readership survey conducted by the university's Population Research Laboratory last month. Two thousand e-mail invitations were sent out asking members of the campus community to participate in the survey. More than 600 people responded.

The survey asked respondents to rank different elements of the newspaper on a scale of one to five. The highest score was awarded to research stories, which 23.3 per cent of respondents ranked as 'excellent.'

Established more than 40 years ago, Folio faces some challenges with changing readership preferences. Fewer readers are satisfied with the newspaper's publication now than in a 2003 survey, and a similar number would prefer to see the newspaper published monthly.

Folio publishes 20 times a year between September and June. The majority of respondents 51.2 per cent, down from 59.5 per cent in 2003, said they prefer the status quo. Thirty-four per cent, up from 25 per cent in 2003, said they'd like to see Folio published monthly, rather than every second week.

Readers are also frustrated with shared

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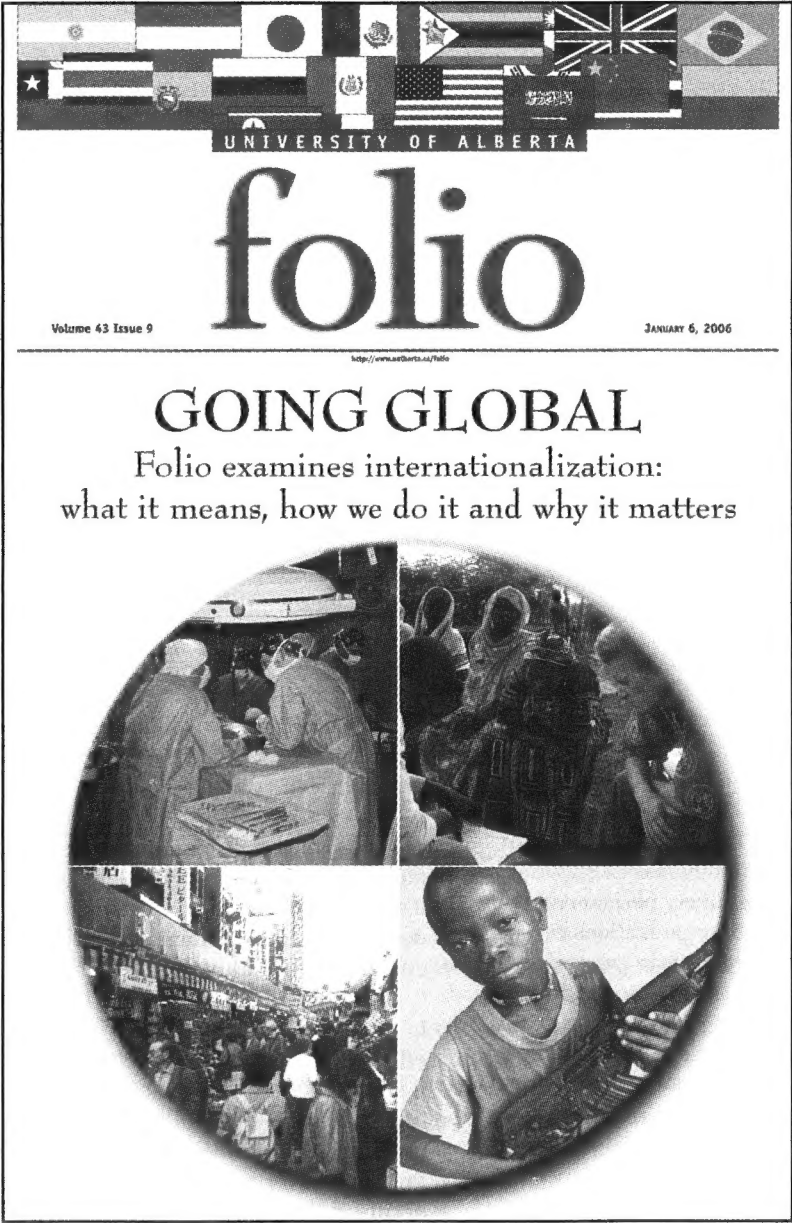
content between Folio and ExpressNews, the university's daily online news service (www.ualberta.ca). Because of staffing levels and publication frequency, many of the articles appearing in Folio have first been published on ExpressNews.

Readers were asked if they'd prefer an electronic or newsprint version of Folio. Sixty two per cent, down from 64 per cent in 2003, prefer to receive the newspaper. Thirty seven per cent, up from 33 per cent in 2003, said they'd rather receive Folio electronically, via e-mail.

The survey also asked specific questions about the Jan. 6 edition of Folio – a special theme issue dedicated entirely to coverage of the university's international initiatives. The theme issue was successful in raising the understanding of the U of A's global projects and profile among readers.

Only 2.1 per cent of respondents rated their understanding of U of A global initiatives as 'excellent' before reading the issue; 21.9 per cent rated the issue as 'excellent' in terms of increasing their knowledge of international initiatives. And 55 per cent gave the edition four points out of five when asked how informative it was.

Eighty-one per cent of respondents said they'd like to see more theme issues in the future. ■



Folio readers say a special edition of Folio broadened their understanding of the university's international initiatives.

Olympic performances may boost Canadian tourism

'Destination awareness' is connected with Olympic winners, says researcher

By Ryan Smith

As Canadian athletes compete in the Olympics there is more at stake than personal achievement, endorsements and national pride, says a University of Alberta researcher.

Dr. Tom Hinch, a Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation professor, studies how sport shapes culture and how Canada's tourism industries use the country's unique sport culture as a marketing tool to attract visitors. He published a paper on the topic this month in the journal *Tourism Geographies*.

"In terms of profile, there is a very strong destination awareness tied in with Olympic winners," Hinch said. "Success in the Olympics certainly has the potential to highlight Canada as a tourist destination - the playing of a national anthem after a gold medal is about the best exposure you could get."

Viewers around the world start to associate a country with a sport or sport performance, and that can lead to a lot of things, Hinch explained.

"If you are interested in Nordic skiing, for example, you may want to visit the country that produces the best in the world in that sport to see how they do it," he said. "If Canadian athletes do well in these Olympics it would certainly go a long way to attract visitors to Canada and the Vancouver Olympics in 2010."

Hinch noted that the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) has recognized the

"Success in the Olympics certainly has the potential to highlight Canada as a tourist destination - the playing of a national anthem after a gold medal is about the best exposure you could get."

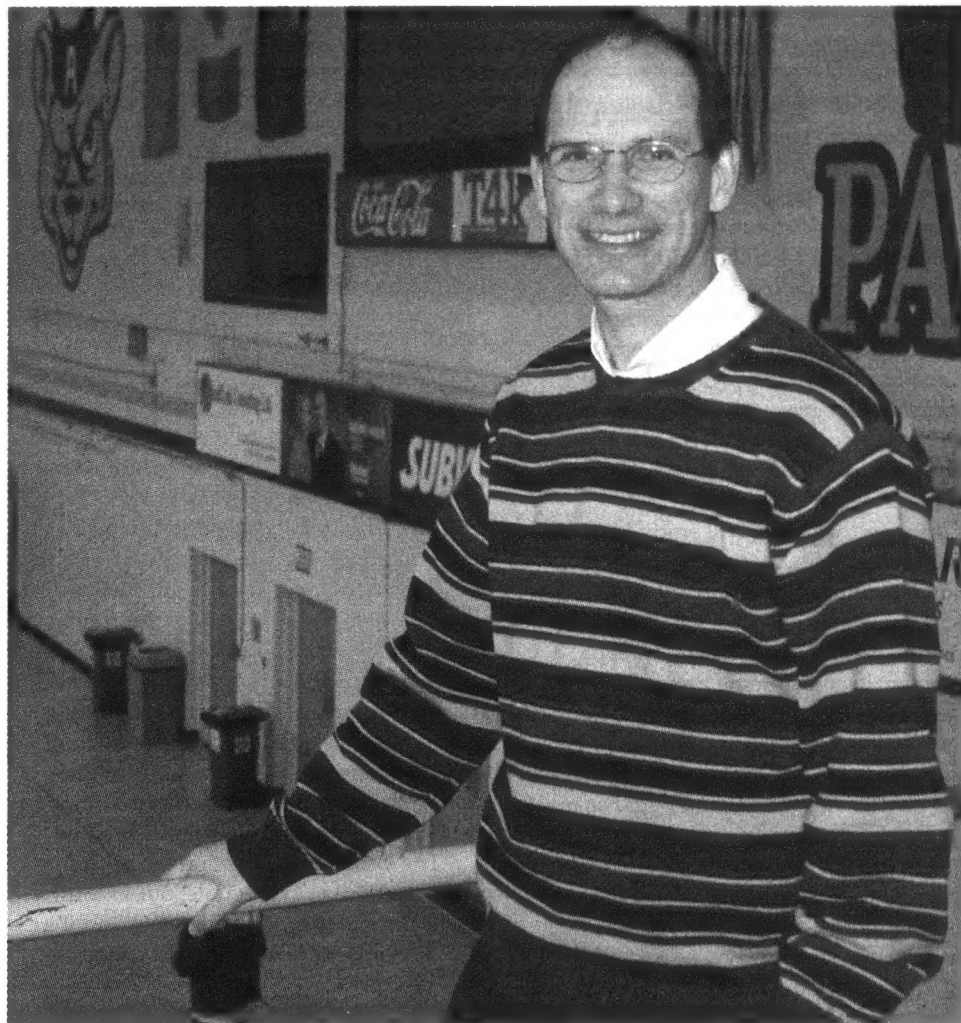
— Dr. Tom Hinch

value of using sports and sporting events as a marketing tool and has developed strategies to help Canadian cities compete successfully in the bidding process to host major sporting events.

"The Calgary Olympics boosted Canada's image by showing the world we're a hospitable destination. I'm sure the CTC is hoping the Vancouver Olympics will do the same thing."

The Olympics provide a chance for glory, but they can also lead to trouble, Hinch said. The cost of hosting the Olympics can drive a region into debt. Poor Olympic performances, bad weather, and scandals - such as the 1988 Ben Johnson affair in Seoul - can tarnish a country's reputation and hinder its ability to use sports to promote itself.

"The Olympics are the epitome of a major sporting event and there's obviously a lot at stake. I think that's why the Olympics are so engaging. We watch because the stakes are so high and, as in all sports, nobody knows the outcome until it happens." ■



Carlin Graham

Dr. Tom Hinch says success at the Olympics could draw international tourists to Canadian cities.

International Olympic Committee needs external review

Study finds that structural changes needed to prevent future scandal

By Phoebe Dey

Having the International Olympic Committee (IOC) responsible for its own reform is like asking Enron to police its own accounting practices, says a University of Alberta researcher.

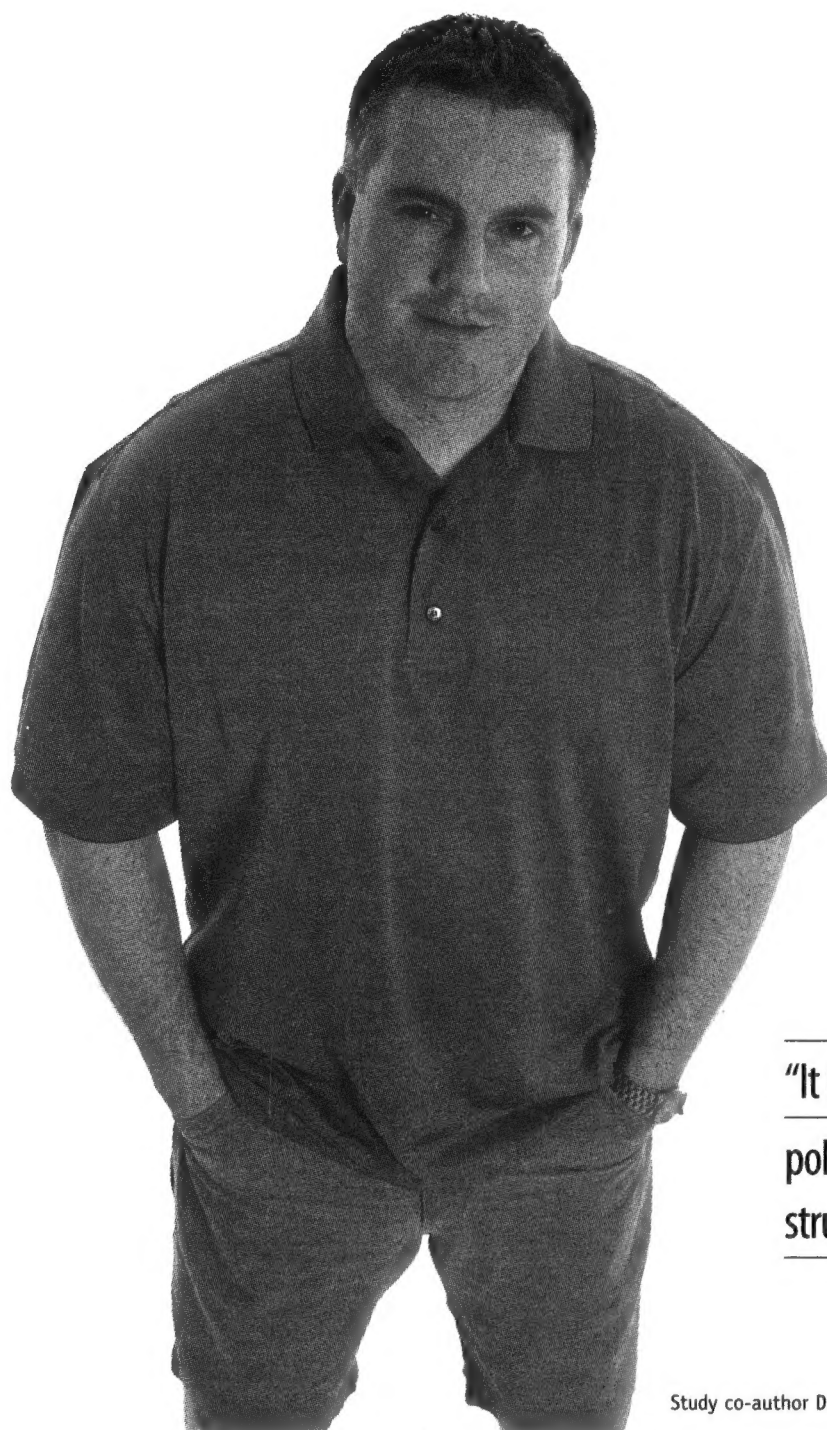
Despite the glitz of this year's Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, the IOC is still haunted by questionable practices surrounding the bid process for hosting the Olympic Games. That scandal peaked in late 1998 when media reports blew the whistle on how the Salt Lake City organizing committee, in particular, was involved with bribery and vote 'buying' and 'selling.'

The IOC then used the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games to redeem its tarnished reputation by putting reforms in place, but the system isn't working because it was set up by the IOC itself, says Dr. Dan Mason, from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and author on a paper published in the *Journal of Sport Management*.

"It is like asking a cohort of wrongdoers to police themselves," said Mason, who co-authored the paper with Lucie Thibault from Brock University and Laura Misener from the U of A. "There are fundamental structural problems there."

Soon after news about Salt Lake City broke, rumours surfaced about extravagant gifts offered to then-IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. It was reported he accepted an ancient samurai sword valued at \$28,000 from the Nagano bid committee.

After continued news coverage about the improprieties, the IOC decided to adopt a three-pronged approach to resolving the crisis: an internal house-cleaning, followed by two commissions to address ethical standards and practices and structural reform. The primary reforms included lowering retirement age, limiting terms of IOC members and reviewing the make-up of the IOC membership. Also, there have been changes in the way site visits take place - only 15 members of an evaluation



committee would travel to bid cities and other IOC members not on that committee are not permitted to visit those spots.

But those changes are not enough to ensure opportunism doesn't happen again, says Mason. He argues that an executive board made up of people outside the IOC would better be able to objectively monitor their actions. Athletes, sport organizations, sponsors and other groups that have a stake in the ideals of the Olympic movement and Olympic Games should be involved.

"These people have a vested interest in what takes place. The sponsors know that a scandal might hurt their product so it would be in their best interest to make sure things are running smoothly. Media conglomerates also have an important stake and some clout because they spend billions for the rights to broadcast the games."

Mason acknowledges it is unlikely members of the IOC will give up the autonomy and power they have enjoyed. "If the IOC fails to adequately address the concerns of all of its residual claimants, the future of the Olympic movement might be irreparably harmed by the opportunistic behaviour of its own members," he said. ■

"It is like asking a cohort of wrongdoers to police themselves. There are fundamental structural problems there."

— Dr. Dan Mason

Study co-author Dr. Dan Mason

New centre to help understand and treat organ transplant rejection

Research could lead to earlier identification of organ transplantation, better anti-rejection drugs for patients

By Caitlin Crawshaw

A new genomics centre at the University of Alberta is exploring ways to help transplant patients fight organ rejection.

The Alberta Transplant Institute Applied Genomics Centre has been kick-started by a \$1-million gift from the Alberta government. Additionally, Roche Molecular Diagnostics will provide the gene expression analysis technology and Roche Pharmaceuticals will contribute an unrestricted grant towards the project. Both the University of Alberta and Capital health will contribute funds, work space and resources.

Initially, the centre will study kidney transplant patients to develop a better understanding of transplant disease mechanisms and rejection, said Dr. Phil Halloran, head of the Genome Canada Transplant Transcriptome Project at the U of A. He explained that the centre's first project will explore the application of gene chip technology, which records genes in a hand-held device. The technology has great potential for treating transplant patients, as it can predict organ rejection before it occurs, allowing doctors to adjust doses of anti-rejection medications, and preventing subsequent tissue damage.

"The project is designed to take the new gene technology and look at it in experimental animals and in humans, starting with kidneys and then going to other organs," said Halloran, who has been developing the use of gene-chip technology in organ transplants for two years. His lab was initially funded by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Genome Canada, the latter contributing \$18 million to U of A genomics research in 2004.

"The long-term consequences will be greater understanding and new diagnostic tools that we can use in the patients. So we're already getting new insights into the

"The existing information (about transplant rejection) is inadequate, our existing diagnostic systems are inadequate and it's costing people opportunities for a long life."

— Dr. Phil Halloran

ways diseases behave in the patients, and we're already seeing limitations in the way we were doing things before."

The current method of identifying organ rejection - the consequence of the body's immune responses to foreign matter - is a 150-year-old technique of examining tissue with a microscope, called histology. The gene chip or micro-array could make diagnosis far more accurate and efficient.

The research centre will also help in the understanding of the mechanisms of disease itself, so better diagnoses can be made, and better anti-rejection drugs developed.

"The existing information (about transplant rejection) is inadequate, our existing diagnostic systems are inadequate and it's costing people opportunities for a long life," he added.

According to Alberta Innovation and Science Minister Victor Doerksen, the centre is valuable in terms of how it will help patients, and is commercially appealing.

"We are proud to be a part of this initiative, which could improve the quality of life for transplant patients, and make Alberta a leader in diagnostic technologies for organ transplantation. This investment in technology commercialization will ensure that the benefits of investments in research, technology and innovation - such as jobs, businesses and economic growth - stay in Alberta." ■



Dr. Phil Halloran holds a gene chip, a handheld device that records genes in tissue samples, and can predict organ rejection in transplant patients. The first project of The Alberta Transplant Institute Applied Genomics Centre will involve further development of the chip.

Thousands of barges could save Europe from deep freeze

Unique project could counter effects of global warming

By Ryan Smith

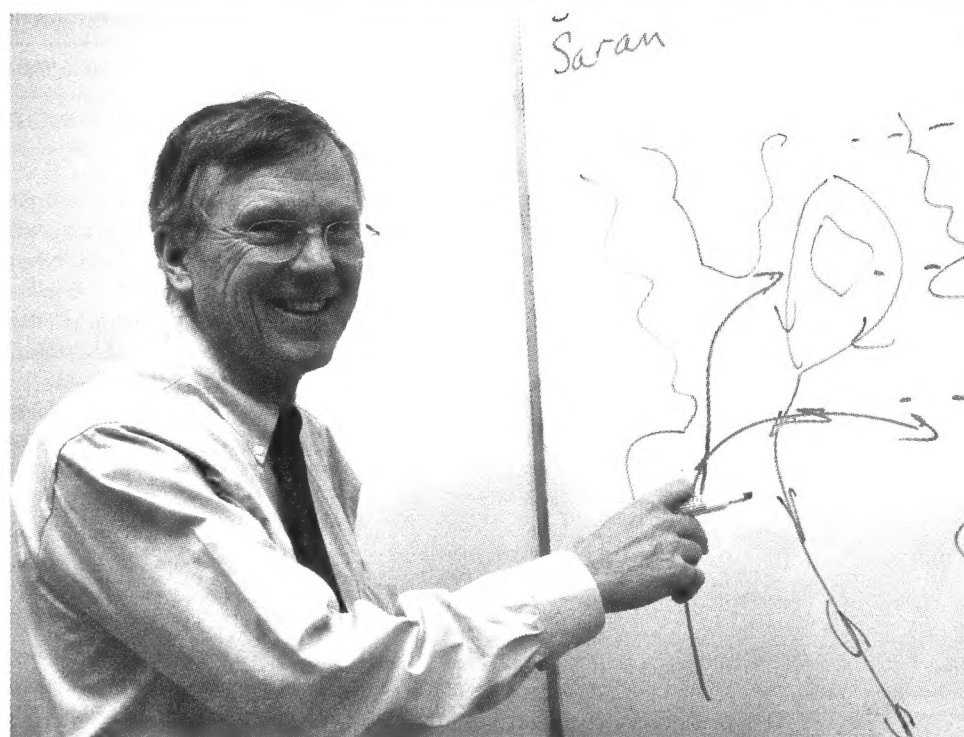
It is ironic that one consequence of global warming is that Europe might plunge into a deep freeze. This possibility has stimulated an unusual research project at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Peter Flynn, who holds the Poole Chair in Management for Engineers in the U of A Department of Mechanical Engineering, has studied whether down-welling ocean currents can carry more dissolved carbon into the deep ocean. He learned they can't, but in the course of this research he found some evidence that the ocean currents that bring warm water to the coastlines of Northern Europe may be weakening.

"The current is like an ocean conveyor belt," Flynn explained. "It starts in the North Atlantic, where down-welling, cold, Arctic water flows south at the bottom of the ocean, and then warm, tropical water flows north to fill in the vacuum created by the cold water, and this warm water helps ensure a mild climate in Northern Europe."

The melting of fresh water ice due to global warming can reduce the flow of the down-welling current, and a study published recently in the journal *Nature* by researchers at the University of Southampton in England reported evidence of weakening down-welling currents.

Flynn and graduate student Songjian Zhou evaluated seven different methods to enhance down-welling currents. They found one way was far more cost effective than the others: making thicker sea ice by



Dr. Peter Flynn explains the principles behind his unusual research.

pumping salty ocean water on top of Arctic ice sheets.

They envisioned more than 8,000 barges moving into the northern ocean in the fall, speeding the initial formation of sea ice by pumping a spray of water into the air, and then, once the ice is formed, pumping ocean water on top of it, trapping the salt in the ice and reaching a thickness of seven metres.

In the spring, water would continue to be pumped over the ice to melt it, forming a vast amount of cold, salty water that sinks and adds to the down-welling current to re-strengthen it.

The estimated cost is about \$50 billion. "When we first did this study we thought this idea was way too expensive - we were shocked by the numbers," Flynn said. "But let's say conservatively that there are 100 million people in Europe

"The best way to deal with global warming is to deal with the causes, fossil carbon in the atmosphere, not the symptoms. However, if our efforts to control CO₂ levels in the atmosphere fail, and we reach a crisis, we can contemplate emergency action."

— Dr. Peter Flynn

affected by this current. Fifty billion dollars would be \$500 per person, and we don't think that is unreasonable if the glaciers are at your back door and your way of life is disappearing."

Flynn emphasizes that his group does not propose this scheme as the first or best choice, since all geo-engineering projects have a risk of unforeseen circumstances.

"The best way to deal with global warming is to deal with the causes, fossil carbon in the atmosphere, not the symptoms," he said. "However, if our efforts to control CO₂ levels in the atmosphere fail, and we reach a crisis, we can contemplate emergency action."

The results of the research have been published recently in the journal *Climatic Change*. ■

Task force examines mandatory retirement

Profs argue against policy at town hall meeting

By Geoff McMaster

Mandatory retirement violates a fundamental human right and should be beyond debate, a task force on the issue was told earlier this month.

The task force on mandatory retirement was struck last spring by Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AAS:UA) and university administration to consider ending a policy many argue is out of step with the times. The town hall meeting was intended to encourage discussion and gather views on the matter. Most participants spoke strongly against mandatory retirement, which they argued was age discrimination.

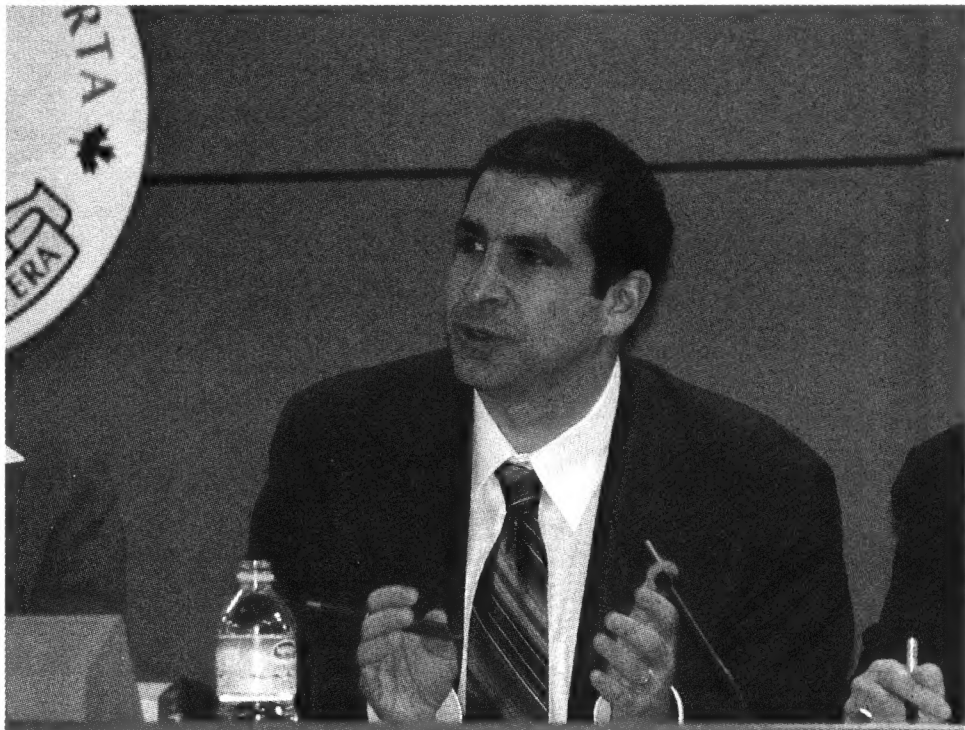
"The mere occupation of this room should be placing a great deal of pressure on the task force to accomplish this in a matter of months rather than a matter of years," said one of about 100 University of Alberta faculty and staff members, mostly approaching retirement age, who filled council chambers. "If you don't feel it then you're not doing your job."

"We have an overwhelming human rights issue that on its own should overcome any administrative problems, and what I see is procrastinating," said one professor. "If we procrastinate, this is not going to go away."

"The movement has begun - it's not allowed in the United States, which is one of our biggest competitors for members of faculty, it's not accepted at many Canadian universities already and the momentum is going in favour of abolishment...I don't know why we don't just get on with it."

Biochemist Brian Sykes, pointing out that his department lost one outstanding candidate on the single issue of mandatory retirement, asked the task force what was "standing in the way" of change.

"There's certainly no one standing in our way in coming up with whatever advice we might have," said task force co-chair Brad Hamdon. "I can't speak beyond that, but I sense no pressure one way or the



Mandatory retirement task force member Brad Hamdon.

other. We were given a mandate and we're fulfilling that mandate...We're not in this to delay - we're doing our best to get this done as soon as we can."

He said the task force will have its report filed by June 30, but could not speculate on how long it would take for the university's governing bodies to act on it.

Mandatory retirement at the U of A was challenged in the early 1990s by history professor Dr. Olive Dickason, who argued it violated provincial legislation. That case went to the Supreme Court of Canada, which ruled in favour of the U of A in 1992.

Dr. Terry Allen of pharmacology argued mandatory retirement is "particularly discriminatory against women who tend to start their career later and have interruptions...Olive Dickason was a wonderful scholar who started quite late and

was forced out. She was only getting started in her career and didn't feel it was fair, and I think many women find themselves in this position."

Some pointed out that it is only a small percentage of faculty who choose to work beyond retirement and are more often than not scholars at the peak of their careers.

Best estimates prepared for the University of Toronto and provided by the U of A's task force suggest that without mandatory retirement, 30 per cent of academic staff would likely retire before age 65, nearly 80 per cent at 65 and 96 per cent by age 68.

Dr. Diane Cox said the perception that there are herds of young graduates waiting to replace retiring faculty is a myth. "In science, the top young people are not necessarily there in great numbers."

The lone dissenting voice, a younger

"We have an overwhelming human rights issue that on its own should overcome any administrative problems, and what I see is procrastinating."

- Town hall attendee

faculty member, suggested those who desire to work beyond 65 should compete for a limited number of positions. "It sounds like the argument around the room is that everybody is at the top of their game (when forced to retire). I believe this not to be the case."

"I realize that I'm brushing aside the human rights question here...but I have a one-year old son. And while I'd like to stay here until I'm 75, I'd also like to have a very good university for my son."

Dr. Ronald McElhaney countered that it is "nonsense" to suggest faculty renewal would be hurt by abolishing mandatory retirement. "This university is undergoing a fantastic renewal. There's been a tremendous turnover of faculty members in the last 10 years, and with the baby boomers there will be another tremendous turnover, more in a few years than we've seen probably in the last 15 or 20 years."

McElhaney added there is no evidence suggesting quality suffers when faculty are kept on past 65. "We don't have to speculate about that - those studies have been done." He pointed to studies in the U.S. that showing that "people who stay on beyond 65 have higher rankings for their teaching, their research and their administrative skills. So if you want to keep the quality of the University of Alberta high, you abolish mandatory retirement - you don't keep it."

The committee invites comments on the issue at taskforces@mail.ido.ualberta.ca ■

New Augustana dean named

Dr. Roger Epp has become the faculty's first dean since merging with the University of Alberta.

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Augustana Faculty has named its first dean since it joined the University of Alberta.

Dr. Roger Epp, who has served as Augustana's acting college dean since the former independent college merged with the U of A in 2004, has been appointed as the faculty's dean. His five-year term begins July 1.

For Epp, 2006 is a great time to be leading the faculty, in Camrose, about 100 km southeast of Edmonton. Augustana is in the middle stage of its transition to a U of A faculty.

"It's a place that has shaped good students for a long time, and I think this is a good time to ask ourselves, as a campus of the U of A, what it is that we ought to be thinking about doing next. How do we shape a really distinctive and strong student experience here, one that will be attractive to students and professors, as the kind of place people want to be?" Epp said.

"It's a place that's filled with good people, with intelligent people, and I'm happy to support what they do and find ways for them to get the resources they need."

Epp joined Augustana University College in 1990 and earned its Distinguished Teaching Award in 2001. He is a professor of political studies at Augustana Faculty and an adjunct professor of political science in the Faculty of Arts. He teaches primarily in international relations and political philosophy.

"He brings a distinguished teaching

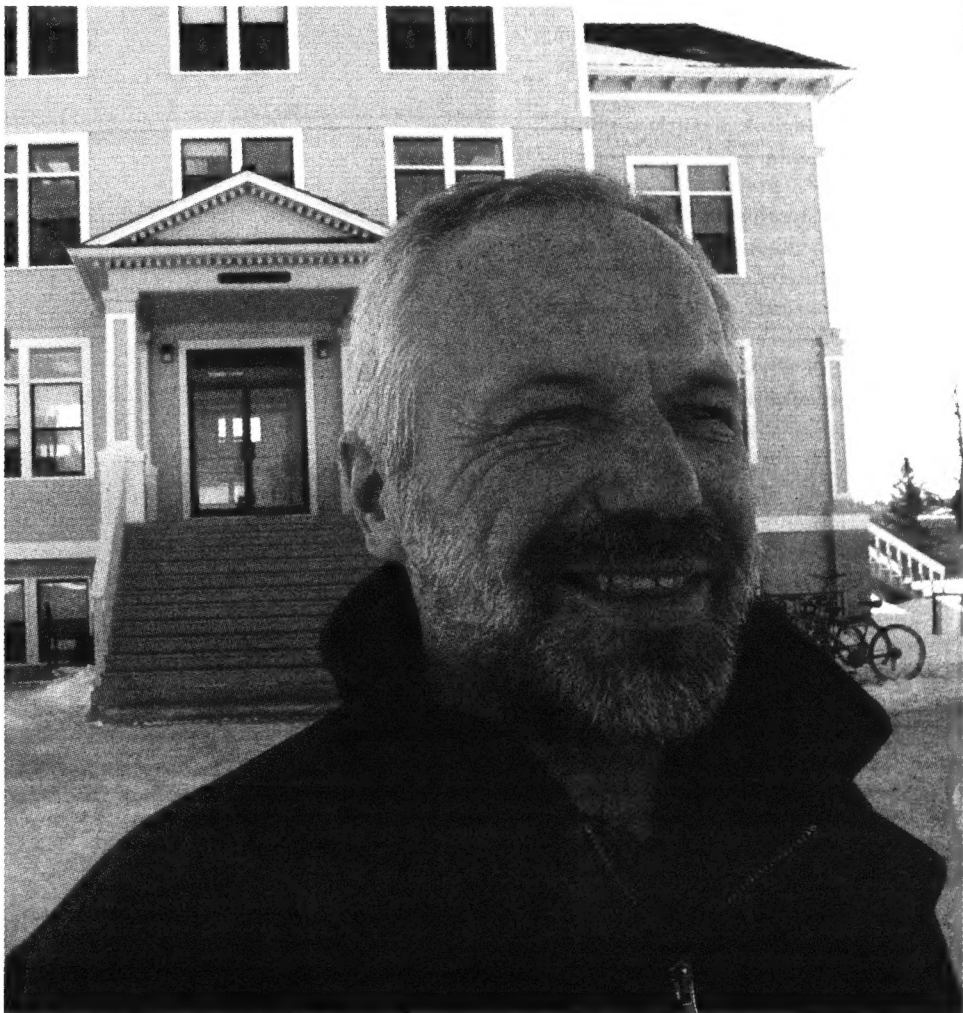
"It's a place that's filled with good people, with intelligent people, and I'm happy to support what they do and find ways for them to get the resources they need."

- Dr. Roger Epp

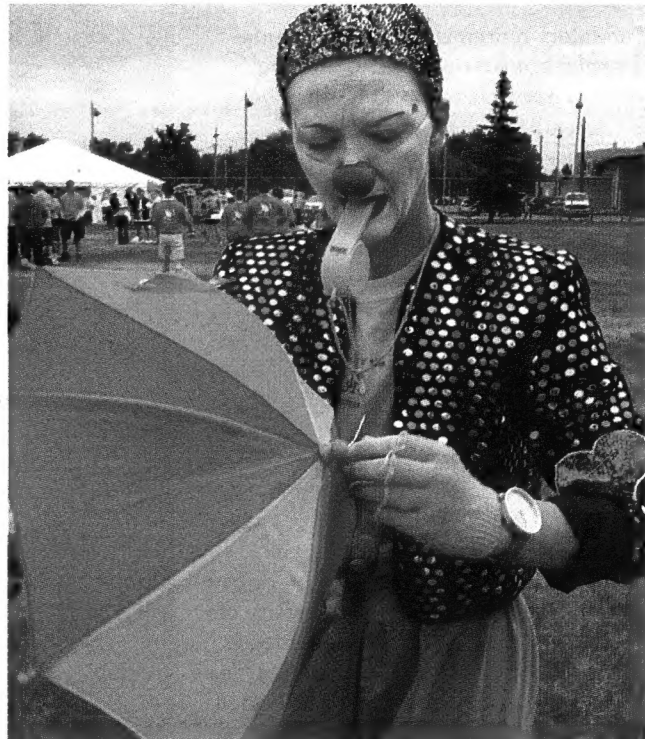
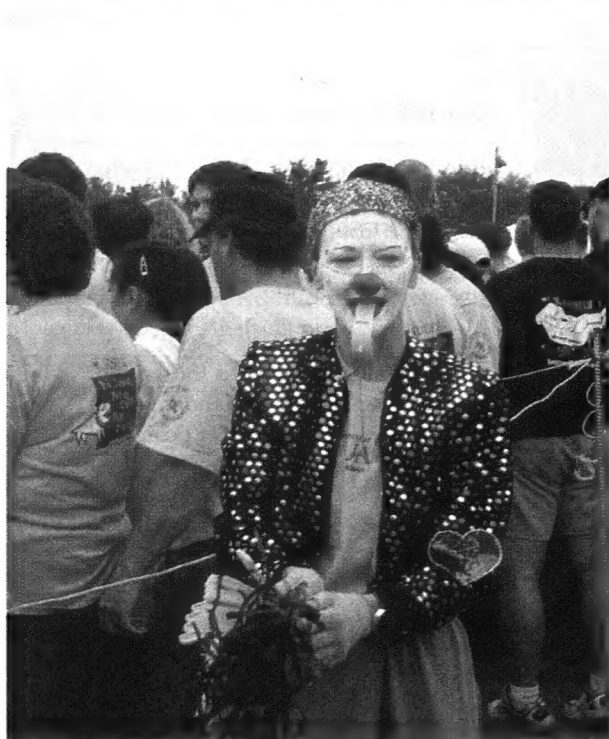
and academic research career to the position," said Dr. Carl Amrhein, the U of A's Provost and Vice-President (Academic). "He has as well as an ability to realize potential in partnerships among stakeholders to the overall benefit of the University of Alberta, our students and the East Central region."

Epp believes that teaching and administrative leadership are activities that inform one another, and draw on a similar set of skills. And while Epp will be busy in his new role as dean, he doesn't plan to give up teaching.

"I will try my best to continue to maintain some small amount of teaching as I've done the past couple of years, because it's good for me not to lose contact with that most important part of what we do. And I enjoy it - I couldn't go cold turkey anyway." ■



While his capacity as dean will keep him busy, Dr. Roger Epp says he'll keep teaching.



Pockets the clown at Corporate Challenge festivities last June. (Left) Pockets prepares to cheer on the U of A team, (centre) strolls with a pal and (left) repairs her favourite umbrella.

Clowning around

Staffer Anna Fodchuk has found her "inner clown"

By Tom Murray

It took three weeks of hard work before Anna Fodchuk was able to hold that long-dreamed-of object in her hand, a deserved reward for a job well done.

It was her first clown nose and she donned it with pride.

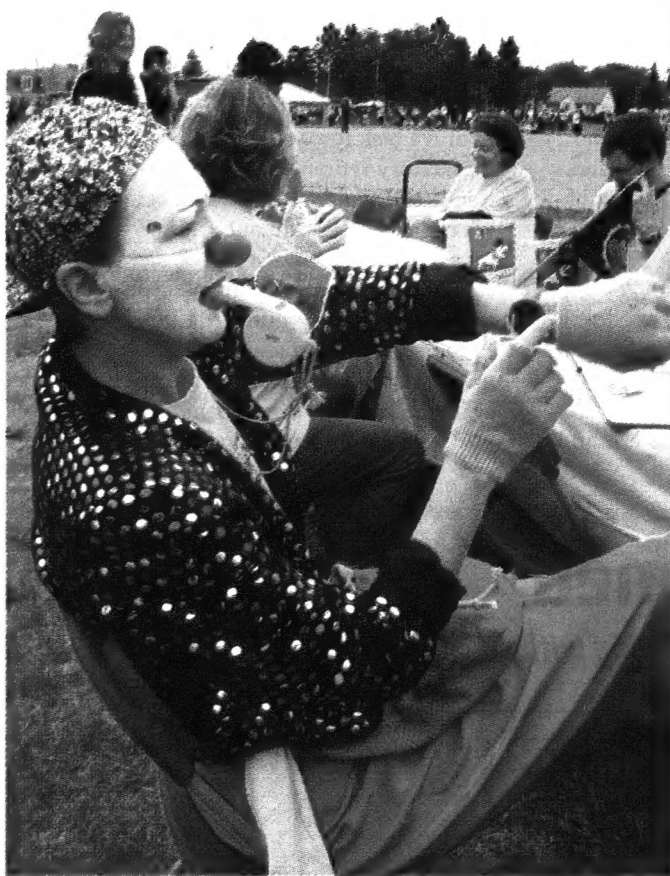
"There's a clown in all of us," asserted Fodchuk, an Admission Records Functional Analyst when she isn't applying the greasepaint or miming for crowds. "Yes, I'm Anna, but I'm also Pockets the Clown. A true clown lives the highs and lows of life everyday, and we just tend to wear our hearts on our sleeves. We're authentic."

Fodchuk learned her second vocation from expert clown Jan Henderson after reading an article by her in the Edmonton Examiner.

"Now she teaches clowning on campus, but her first class was just over 20 years ago, and we did it in the backyard," said Fodchuk.

"We do a lot of personal and professional development, working with color, clothes and movement. And then, of course, we graduate to the red nose, which is three days before the end of the course."

Naturally, there are different types of clowns and Fodchuk is quick to point out that she falls into what she calls the "European style" – probably best exemplified by Charlie Chaplin – distinct from circus and rodeo clowns. She speaks eloquently of the differences, and notes that admission to the world of floppy shoes and fright wigs is based on more than just an understanding of physical comedy. It's also about finding the "clown within."



The final stage for Fodchuk in finding her inner clown two decades ago was to discover her name, which turned out to be Pockets.

"Of course," she chuckled, "my costume does not have any pockets at all."

She came to that stage through a process of elimination, in this case ending with the actual physical elimination of her pockets, which had become unnecessary. Where she once carried various clowning items in her many pockets, Fodchuk now works best simply interacting with the location and the audience. While she has a bag with

"Yes, I'm Anna, but I'm also Pockets the Clown. A true clown lives the highs and lows of life every day, and we just tend to wear our hearts on our sleeves. We're authentic."

— Anna Fodchuk

necessary tools of the trade, she most often finds herself doing without.

"I basically react to what's going on around me," she explained. "I do have balls and scarves for juggling, and other different props that I've used, but I don't focus on stage production so much anymore - I react to what's in my environment."

Fodchuk's philosophy is to just get out and clown, and see what happens.

"We do have a few rules," she said. "Not to come into someone's world without their permission and not to leave them embarrassed. We have to learn to work with the non-verbal and to be in tune with the moment – and especially where the other person is at."

That's long way from simply spritzing someone with a soda bottle or planting a pie in a face for cheap laughs, but what Fodchuk is getting at is far different from the world's current definition of what it is to be a clown. You may have noticed clowns holding signs for flower shops and pizza joints, or, in the most notorious example, shilling for fast food, but Fodchuk thinks that they aren't the real deal.

Still, "I think that traditional clowning is actually coming back," she said. "I've been following it and have been fortunate to be in regular opportunities to do my routine in different venues."

"We need to have more fun. We need to relax, to be more stress-free. It's part of the whole laughter concept. Clowning is not to offend anyone – it's there to have fun, to make you smile and laugh." ■

U of A at the Olympics

By Folio Staff

After years of hard work honing his skills, Vern Thiessen, finally got a spot at the Olympics—a TV spot, that is. Thiessen, a well-known Edmonton-based playwright and Governor General's Award winner, is the actor in a 30-second commercial promoting the University of Alberta is airing on CBC and CBC Newsworld during the Turin Olympics.

Thiessen's modesty almost kept him from auditioning for the commercial. He hadn't acted for decades and says, "I sat with the producer and director and told them I was the completely wrong person... that they should get someone famous or a good-looking jock or a babe."

It's just that kind of stereotypically

Canadian, self-effacing attitude that the commercial pokes fun at. In the commercial, shots of successful U of A athletes, students and researchers strutting their stuff follow Thiessen's tongue-in-cheek descriptions of Canadians as modest, quiet, and not too serious.

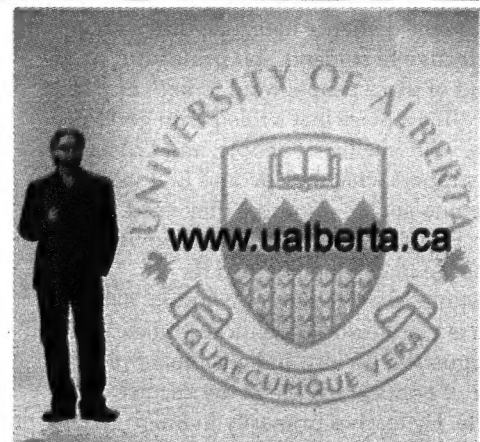
"The ad was very well written," said Thiessen of the commercial produced by the University's Public Affairs Office and created by Edmonton company The Idea Factory, "and I had a lot of fun doing it."

The interest Thiessen shows in the U of A during the commercial is no act. "I care about the University," he said, "and I was very pleased to be able to help in this way. The U of A has been very, very good to

me and was a big part of my success. I am happy to see that they are promoting themselves, as they should be."

"I was very impressed," University President Indira Samarasekera said. "They did a fabulous job with this commercial. In just 30 seconds, they manage to showcase science, sports, the arts, teaching, research, and capture the all-round excellence of the U of A."

The commercial aired more than 200 times during the Turin Olympics, reaching an anticipated audience of more than 10 million viewers. If you missed it on TV, check the university's website at www.ualberta.ca and follow the link to the "U of A Olympics commercial." ■



A still from the U of A's Olympics advertisement

Painting the roses red ... and black

Exhibit presents a new take on the still life

By Illeiren Byles

These flowers carry a message but it has very little to do with affection.

The photo of the lush bouquet that hangs on the wall at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension Gallery is splashed and smeared with black paint. Some of the black marks are part of the photograph itself.

"I was thinking about those sappy, saccharine florals with baby's breath that everyone gets and the myth of romance and love," said artist Tanya Sehn, an assistant professor of art at University of Lethbridge and former instructor in the U of A's Fine Arts program.

Sehn's exhibit, *Floral Still Life*, has a lot of elements that are very familiar – roses, orchids, lilacs and even some irises and sunflowers that evoke Van Gogh. But, the artist has added element of paint – sometimes smeared, sometimes dripped, sometimes overwhelming – is where the artist's statements are found, said gallery director Val Smyth.

"I think Tanya is one of the first graduates of the drawing program at the Department of Art and Design here. None of these marks are casual. They're all here for a reason," he said, gesturing to the Van Gogh-like irises. "This is out of vogue right now, florals are out, and that's partially why it's here."

The paint is applied to the photograph and then photographed again ... and then painted on again.

"As soon as I photograph the paint, I'm not allowing to just be paint anymore. Now it's a subject," said Sehn. "And when I paint on the photograph, I'm not allowing it to just be a photograph."

Sehn also deliberately chose very commercial images of flowers.

"When you look at the tulips, there's some dark green in the background and it all evokes this white feeling of purity,



Artist Tanya Sehn with a piece from her exhibit *Floral Still Life*, at the Faculty of Extension gallery.

spring and opportunity and newness," she said. "But the white marks, the paint, is about to come down on it all. It's going to drip down and it's going to obliterate it. I think there's a moodiness there that's more about reality."

But Sehn's questioning goes deeper than that. She's butting heads with conventions around abstract art. In the 1960s Clement Greenberg was offering recommendations about how to paint abstract expressionist work, and Sehn is confront-

ing most of them one by one.

"Now, we can look back and see that there was a very controlled way to have people paint. By taking some of these things that he recommended and disassembling things and fooling around with them, I'm asking more questions about when things work and when things don't work," she said. "I think I can have abstract painting and have three-dimensional space. And what if there is a subject? And what if it is feminine? I'm really just playing with some

art theory, here."

Those questions are what will take Sehn far in the art world, insisted Smyth.

"If she sees a convention with a number of pillars, she'll pull one of those pillars out to see if those conventions still stand," he said. "And if it doesn't stand, why not? We're a public gallery in an academic institution. We ought to be asking questions."

Floral Still Life will be on display at the Faculty of Extension Gallery until March 2. ■

Rats prove link between pre-diabetic state and heart dysfunction

Research suggests people at risk of diabetes are vulnerable to air pollution

By Phoebe Dey

Obese people at risk of diabetes are also in danger of heart attacks when exposed to some kinds of air pollution, says a University of Alberta researcher.

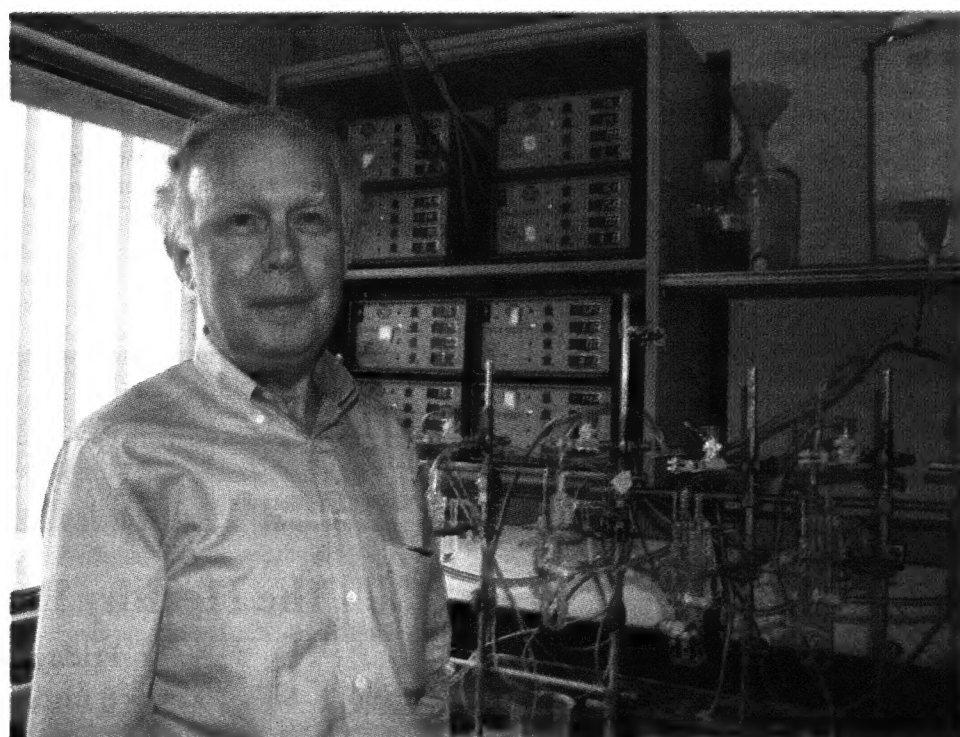
Dr. Jim Russell, a researcher at the U of A's Alberta Institute for Human Nutrition, is offering the first direct proof that diesel exhaust or power plant emissions could trigger cardiovascular events like heart attacks in obese people.

"There is a growing body of evidence that exposure to fine particulate matter, the small stuff you can't see, correlates to diseases in the public," said Russell, whose research is published in the journal *Toxicological Sciences*.

"Our research helps connect the dots and get at the mechanisms that put people at risk. It has major implications for public health and environmental policy."

The pandemic of obesity, pre-diabetic metabolic syndrome and Type 2 diabetes is creating a new generation of cardiovascular dysfunction, such as heart disease or stroke, that is increasingly influenced by the external environment. Russell's research team, including the U of A's Dr. Spencer Proctor and Sandra Kelly, collaborating with Dr. Kevin Dreher of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, specifically studied fine particulate matter measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

They compared rats that are obese and insulin-resistant with lean and metabolically normal rats. In terms of metabolism and



Dr. Jim Russell has found evidence that diesel exhaust or power plant emissions could trigger heart attacks or other cardiovascular events in obese people.

heart disease, the animals, says Russell, "behave in every respect like your obese human."

Arteries of both rat groups were exposed to particles collected downstream of the emission controls of a Birmingham, Alabama power plant burning low sulfur residual oil. On the second exposure, the

arteries of the obese rat contracted directly and "very strongly," compared to the lean rats, says Russell, also a professor emeritus in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

"I was surprised by the findings because I didn't think they would be as dramatic as they were," he said, adding that although there is a lot of emphasis on

"(The research) raises a real question about the effects of these pollutants, especially in vulnerable members of the population."

— Dr. Jim Russell

the connection between lung cancer and pollution, more attention should also be paid to the impact it has on the cardiovascular system.

"It raises a real question about the effects of these pollutants, especially in vulnerable members of the population."

"This is something that needs to be debated publicly. Some efforts have been made to filter the particles but it is what you can't see that is worrisome. Alberta gets almost all its electrical energy from burning coal and this is seen as a controversial strategy in other parts of the country, such as Ontario. This is not an esoteric concern."

This demonstration of a direct link between the pre-diabetic, insulin-resistant state and cardiovascular sensitivity to fine particulate matter contributes to the growing weight of evidence that this pollution represents a significant public health risk, says Russell. ■

Research examines effect of TV on Alzheimer's patients

Study hopes to identify programming that benefits patients in long-term care

By Folio staff

Researchers from the University of Alberta and Athabasca University want to know what effect television has on Alzheimer's patients in long-term care.

"We are interested in knowing whether programming that is 'cognitively congruent' with a resident's cognitive status is more meaningful than that which is 'cognitively incongruent,'" said Dr. Bonnie Dobbs, associate director of the Rehabilitation Research Centre at the U of A and is co-principal investigator of the research project.

"For example, programs that rely on simple plots may be more engaging than those with complex story lines, and programs with bright colours and action may be more appealing than other formats. Old favourites may elicit more interest than newer, less familiar programs."

Fellow co-investigator Dr. Bob Heller of Athabasca University explained that television might play an important role in the lives of Alzheimer's disease patients.

"Television viewing is a frequent activity of many individuals. For many older people, television is a source of information, entertainment and companionship," he said.

"Although television occupies a prominent place in long-term care facilities, it is not clear how engaging television is for individuals with Alzheimer disease."

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative, neurological disease most common in people over 65 years of age that causes the loss of memory and certain abilities. The research study involves 24 female residents of the McConnell Place West, an Alzheimer's care facility run by the Capital

"We are interested in knowing whether programming that is 'cognitively congruent' with a resident's cognitive status is more meaningful than that which is 'cognitively incongruent.'"

— Dr. Bonnie Dobbs

Care Group. Residents were observed over a two-week period (Jan. 16-27), watching a variety of different genres of videos, from old favourites like I Love Lucy to programming developed especially for people with dementia.

Researchers are hoping the study will enable staff at continuing care centres to develop more cognitively-appropriate video programming to the benefit of residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

"The focus is on practical research to learn more about Alzheimer disease, to design programs that build on individual residents' strengths and capabilities, and to identify practical solutions for both facility and home-based caregivers," said Doris Milke, senior researcher with The Capital Care Group.

The study is one of several research projects funded by The Capital Care Foundation's Alzheimer Care Research (ACR) Grant, a collaborative effort of The Capital Care Group and the University of Alberta. ■



Dr. Bonnie Dobbs, associate director of the Rehabilitation Research Centre at the University of Alberta, is co-principal investigator of the research project.

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ORGANIZER – need someone to help you organize office, home or project? 716-4242/473-2141 typescript@interbaun.com.

NEED SOMEONE TO WALK YOUR DOG? FEED YOUR CAT? I mind your home, your pets. Residential house-sitting/pet-sitting, pet care and pet taxi. Leave message with Mona @ 498-2917.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



The Healthy Pancake Breakfast

Friday March 3
Time- 8 until 11 (or we sell out)
Location- Main Floor AgFor in Cookie Lounge

Making Healthy Choices at the Grocery Store: How to shop for your body on a budget
 Tuesday March 14th 2:00pm to 2:50pm in NREF 2 127
Holly Rebaume-Kamenka R.D.

Making Healthy Choices on Campus: What and where are the healthy choices
 Monday March 20th 1:00pm to 1:50pm in CAB 373
Peer Nutrition Educators

Obesegenic Environments
 Monday March 27th at 11:00am to 11:50am in Education South 158
Geoff Ball

talks & events

Submit talks and events to Lorraine Neumayer by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>.** A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca.

UNTIL MAR 16 2006

Conserving Biodiversity in Northern Cities
Leading researchers from around the globe will be speaking about conservation issues within northern cities. The series is free of charge and open to the public. Registration is not required. 4:30 p.m. Engineering Teaching Learning Complex Room 1 007. <http://www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm>

UNTIL APR 6 2006

Visit the University of Alberta's Observatory
Every Thursday evening from 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. the observatory is open to the public. Everybody is welcome and admission is free. Star clusters, planets, nebulae and the Moon will be visible through our telescopes. We are located on the roof of the Physics Building. Take the elevators to the 6th floor and walk up the final set of stairs. 8:00 p.m. Physics Building 7th floor and rooftop. <http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/research/astro/observ.php>

UNTIL MAR 1 2006

"Floral Still Life" by Tanya Sehn In a combination of photography and painting the subject of floral still life is presented in a manner that explores the emotional and the psychological in a non-traditional approach to still life. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Saturday Extension Centre Gallery, 2nd Floor, 8303-112 Street, Edmonton. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca>

UNTIL FEB 25 2006

Collaborations: an Exhibition of Prints
Collaborations is an exhibition of prints from Silpakorn University, Thailand, Tama Art University, Japan, and the University of Alberta, Canada. The Opening Reception will be held on Friday, February 17, 2006, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Regular gallery hours are from Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Sunday, Monday, and statutory holidays. Fine Arts Building Gallery, room 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 112 street and 89 avenue, University of Alberta campus, Edmonton.

Collaborations: An exhibition of prints from Thailand, Japan, and Canada The work of 31 artists teaching at universities in Thailand, Japan, and Canada. 1-1 Fine Arts Building. <http://www.ualberta.ca/ARTDESIGN/html/fab/upcoming.html>

UNTIL FEB 18 2006

Studio Theatre presents Shakespeare's As You Like It 2006 Mary Mooney Distinguished Visiting Artist Director Dean Gilmour Guest Designer David Lovett Studio Theatre brightens up the season of flying snow with one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies, As You Like It. Forest frolicking, gender-bending, wrestling, songs and dance, all amid an exploration of how to love. Advance tickets available through TIX on the Square 420.1757 or online at www.tixon-thesquare.ca. Walk-up tickets available at the Timms Centre Box Office one hour prior to curtain, for that day's performance only. Timms Centre for the Arts. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/drama/studiotheatre.cfm>

FEB 17 2006

Health Ethics Seminar The Problem of Compassion in Clinical Practice 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. Room 207, Heritage Medical Research Centre. <http://www.ualberta.ca/BIOETHICS/>

Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute Seminar Series: Internationalization / Globalization
Dr. David Smith, Professor, Dept of Secondary Education: "Learning to Read Education Through the Processes of Globalization: Decoding the Logic of Immanence and Facing the Challenges of Mnemonic Reparation" 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. 122 Education South. <http://www.quasar.ualberta.ca/cpin/upcoming.htm>

Special Seminar Dr. Alastair J. Wilson, institute of Evolutionary Biology, University of Edinburgh will present a seminar entitled "Sheepish Confessions of an Animal Modeller". Hosted by Dr. David Coltman. 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences. http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news_events/events/index.php?Show_Description=Yes&month=2&year=2006&day=17&Series=&Show_All=

International Cultural Night: "Mosaic of World Rhythms and Beats" Cultural Night is an annual event organized by Peer program volunteers at the International Centre. 100% of the proceeds go towards the INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EMERGENCY BURSARY. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. Acts range from Greek and Serbian dances to traditional Persian to Indian. 7:00 p.m. Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building, UofA.

FEB 18 2006

Auckland Alumni Breakfast Hyatt Regency
Auckland Corner Princes St & Waterloo Quadrant Special U of A guests: Dr. Carl G. Amrhein Provost and Vice-President (Academic) & Dr. Mike Mahon Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation For more information on these events, email alumni@ualberta.ca. 9:00 a.m. Dunedin, New Zealand Auckland, New Zealand.

Bears Hockey Bears vs. Calgary 7:00 p.m. Clare Drake Arena Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre. www.cubsclub.ualberta.ca

FEB 19 2006

Antonín Kubalek ConcertMozart's Piano Sonatas. Music: Antonín Kubalek - Mozart's Piano Sonatas. The first two of four piano recitals by Antonín Kubalek, featuring the complete piano sonatas of Mozart. Convocation Hall, 7:30 p.m. Part of the Institute's "Year of Mozart 2006" celebration, <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/WI>.

Bottom of Form

FEB 21 2006

E-Tool for Teaching and Learning
Presentation and demonstrations of e-learning tools including keynote speaker, Professor Brian Daku, the author of "MATLAB tutor CD" published by John Wiley & Sons (2006). Other tools that will be covered include Elluminate for synchronous communication, Camtasia for Asynchronous communication, WebCt for content management, and Webcasting. A panel discussion on the future of e-learning in higher education will be held in the afternoon. Room ETCL 1-003 - Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex. <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/events.cfm?show=2006/02&day=21>

FEB 22 - 24 2006

Oilsands 2006 The Oilsands 2006 conference is an outgrowth of the NSERC Oilsand Chairs symposia organized by Professors Jacob Masliyah and Murray Gray. It will provide an excellent forum for presenters and attendees to learn and exchange valuable experience concerning topics that include: integrated approaches to oilsands processing, pipeline, marketing of oilsand products, ore processability, tailings, froth treatment, bitumen composition and properties, low cost hydrogen production, bitumen conversion, energy efficiency, gasification & hydrotreating product quality. Please note the submission deadline and other details are available at www.ualberta.ca/oilsands2006. 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. University of Alberta, Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) Room 1-001. <http://www.ualberta.ca/oilsands2006>

FEB 22 2006

pi-r-squared Lunchtime Lectures Calling all grad students? Digest some knowledge and a little pizza? Join us for free pizza and pop and connect with researchers across Alberta. You are invited to the first lecture in Netera Alliance's pr2 (pi-r-squared) Lunchtime Lectures. This session will be videoconferenced between the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge. Topic: Evolutionary & Swarm Design Presenter: Dr Christian Jacob, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Computer Science, Evolutionary & Swarm Design Group, University of University of Alberta - Room 315, General Services Building Attendance and lunch (pizza and pop) are free of charge. RSVP your attendance and pizza/pop preference to: rsvp@netera.ca 780.492.5016 ext. 219 For more information, please visit www.netera.ca/pr2 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 315 (Access Grid Room), General Services Building. <http://www.netera.ca/pr2>

Kubalek Concert Antonín Kubalek - Mozart's Piano Sonatas. Music: Antonín Kubalek - Mozart's Piano Sonatas The first two of four piano recitals by Antonín Kubalek, featuring the complete piano sonatas of Mozart. Convocation Hall - 7:30 p.m. Part of the Institute's "Year of Mozart 2006" celebration, <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/WI>, Convocation Hall

FEB 23 - 25, 2006

Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Conference WRCASN is the western region (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) and we are part of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, the national association for nursing education and nursing research in Canada. The objectives are "To lead nursing education and nursing scholarship in the interest of healthier Canadians." The theme for the 2006 WRCASN Conference is "Nursing Education: Shaping the Future". 4:00 p.m. Fantasyland Hotel. <http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca>

FEB 27 2006

University Teaching Services (UTS)
Microteaching for the IS Program. The Instructional Skills (IS) Program offered through University Teaching Services allows participants to demonstrate their teaching skills to peers. Participants with a minimum of 25 hours of pedagogy are invited to give a 10-minute microteaching presentation on a topic of interest to and understandable by a diverse audience. Presentations must be structured (introduction, body, conclusion) and rehearsed to fit the 10-minute time slot. If you wish your presentation to be videotaped, please bring a blank VHS tape. As this is a requirement of the IS Program, registration and attendance are compulsory. The IS Program requires five participants per microteaching event. Presenters: IS Program Participants Please register for this session at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CAB 219.

Departmental Seminar Dr. Erin Bromage, Department of Environment and Aquatic Animal Health, College of William and Mary, will present a seminar entitled "Defining the trout humoral immune response: The role of plasma cell diversity and antibody structure." Dr. Bromage is a candidate for the Assistant/Associate Professor position in Comparative Immunology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Hosted by Dr. Brad Magor. 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/>

Lecture on Ukraine's Language Policy Under Presidents Kuchma and Yushchenko Volodymyr Kulyk, visiting professor, Stanford University, and senior research fellow, Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, will speak on "Ukrainian Language Policy: from Kuchma to Yushchenko." 7:00 p.m. 227 Athabasca Hall (heritage Lounge) .

FEB 28 2006

Health Law Institute Seminar Series "Whither Regenerative Medicine?" Dr. Abdallah Daar, Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto. 12:00 p.m. Room 237 Law Centre. <http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/hli>

Dear Employer? How do I write better work search letters Learn how to effectively write, format and target cover letters, networking letters and follow up letters. Find out how and when you should use these letters in your work search. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:35 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

In vivo assessment of bone strength by micro-computed tomography Speaker: S. Boyd Assistant Professor, University of Calgary Abstract: Bone strength is a critical risk factor for patients suffering from osteoporosis. This presentation will provide a background on micro-CT technology, and recent experiences in our laboratory with in vivo measurements of mouse and rat models of osteoporosis, as well as measurements of human subjects. It will give an overview of the current technologies for non-invasively assessing bone strength, and the future directions of our laboratory for extending the finite element method for clinical applications. 3:30 p.m. 2-001 Natural Resources Engineering Facility, Markin/CNRL. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/mece/departmentseminars.cfm>

Piano Masterclass Piano Masterclass. Visiting Artist William Eddins Music Director Edmonton Symphony Orchestra 3:30 p.m. Arts Building/ Convocation Hall.

University Teaching Services (UTS) Teaching Dossiers What is a teaching dossier and what kind of supportive documentation should it contain? Why are some University of Alberta departments placing greater importance on teaching dossiers? The aim of this workshop is to answer these questions and provide an opportunity for participants to start to create their own personalized dossier. Presenter: Margaret Wilson, University Teaching Services Please register for this session at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CAB 243.

A Construct of Deaf-Hearing Relationships
The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Department of Educational Psychology University of Alberta Invites You to a Free Public Lecture A Construct of Deaf-Hearing Relationships Presenter: David Mason, Ph.D. Daily, around this planet, Deaf and non-deaf people interact in a number of ways. There are many hearing/non-deaf people who work with deaf children and adults and have the best interests of Deaf people at heart. This presentation describes a model that highlights the relationship patterns, and addresses why and how these relationships emerge. For more information please refer to the attached. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 129 Education South Education Centre . <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education/pdfs/D.Masonflyer.pdf>

Edmonton Regional Alumni Reception for Electrical, Computer, and Engineering Physics

Engineers Join other Edmonton-area University of Alberta Engineering alumni and friends of the Faculty as we pay tribute to all of you who carry on the great tradition of the U of A Engineer. Dr. David Lynch, Dean of Engineering, looks forward to meeting you and updating you on the Faculty's recent successes and plans for future growth. Business attire recommended. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Engineering Solarium, 2nd Floor, ETLC (Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex).

MAR 1 2006

PHS Grand Rounds Dr Kent Rondeau, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health and Dr Neil Bell, Professor, Family Medicine, Misericordia Hospital "Managing Patients with Chronic Illness: How Well are Alberta Family Physicians Doing?" 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

pi-r-squared Lunchtime Lectures - Computational Models of Human Cognition
Digest some knowledge and a little pizza? Join us for free pizza and pop and connect with researchers across Alberta. You are invited to the second lecture in Netera Alliance's pi-r-squared Lunchtime Lectures. This session will be videoconferenced between the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge. Topic: Computational Models for Human Cognition Presenter: Dr Renée Elio, Computing Science, University of Alberta Attendance and lunch (pizza and pop) are free of charge. RSVP your attendance and pizza/pop preference to: rsvp@netera.ca or 780.492.5016 ext. 219 For more information, please visit www.netera.ca/pr2 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 315 (Access Grid Room), General Services Building. <http://www.netera.ca/pr2>

Progenitor Migration in Gene and Cell Therapy Dr. Fabio Rossi from the University of British Columbia will be discussing: 1. Progenitors involved in thymic homeostasis 2. Factors limiting thymic reconstitution upon bone marrow transplants 3. Progenitor trafficking between bloodstream and CNS in neurodegenerative disease 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. 2-07 Heritage Medical Research Centre. <http://www.medicalgenetics.med.ualberta.ca/news/rounds.php>

Make me an offer! Tips on negotiating and evaluating job offers Anticipating a job offer? Sometimes you will have the opportunity to negotiate the terms of your employment, including salary. This seminar will provide you with negotiating tips and acquaint you with factors you need to consider before accepting or rejecting an offer. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. 2-100 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Election Forum -APIRG Board Member Election 2006 All the candidates that will be running for APIRG Board Member position will be speaking for about 5-10 min. each. And they will be answering the general public's questions. 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. SUB Stage -Main floor of SUB. <http://www.apirg.org>

University Teaching Services (UTS) Creating a Poster to Showcase Your Ideas Posters are one effective medium for communicating scholarly work. This session reviews basic design principles for creating eye-catching posters. The hands-on portion involves participants in creating a poster and contains instructions on sending the finished product to the CNS plotter. Advanced knowledge of PowerPoint is essential. Limited computer workstations available; first registered, first seated. Presenter: Jack Scott, DiTRL Laboratory, Biological Sciences Please register for this session at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Technology Training Centre, lower level of Cameron Library.

MAR 2 2006

D.B. Robinson Distinguished Speaker Series, featuring Anna C. Balazs Using theory and simulation to design "smart" polymeric systems Anna C. Balazs, University of Pittsburgh Time 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. Refreshments will be available at 3:10 p.m. outside the room

Recruitment Seminar - Andrew Mason, Department of Life Sciences, University of Toronto at Scarborough "Directional healing in a micro-scale auditory system." Dr. Mason, is a recruit for the position of Assistant/Associate Professor of Neurobiology. 4:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/>

To what degree? Options for further education Life as a student often does not end upon graduation. Many people find themselves back in the classroom (part-time or full-time), either shortly after receiving their degree or at some point in their future. Learn about various options for further education and factors to consider in deciding to

go back to school. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:35 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Creative Works Reading by Elizabeth Ruth Elizabeth Ruth is a Toronto-based writer. Her second novel, *Smoke*, was published in August 2005 by Penguin Canada and is garnering fantastic reviews from across the country. Her debut novel, *Ten Good Seconds of Silence* was published to critical acclaim in 2001, and named as a finalist for the Rogers' Writer's Trust of Canada Fiction Prize, the Amazon.ca/Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the City of Toronto Book Award. It has also sold internationally. 2:00 p.m. HC L-3. <http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english>

Intuitions and Individual Differences: The Knobe Effect Revisited Professor Shaun Nichols Department of Philosophy University of Utah 3:30 p.m. Humanities Centre 4-29. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/philosophy>

Anthony Barrett (UBC) "The Strangest Fort in the Roman Empire: the UBC Excavations at the Lunt Fort in England" Archaeological Institute of American Lecture Series 7:00 p.m. 1-5 Business . <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/historyandclassics/aia.cfm>

MAR 3 2006

What the heck are you going to do with that? Career advice for Arts students Are you trying to figure out your career options with a BA? Find out how other Arts graduates have put their degree to work, and about resources and strategies you can use to learn about occupations that fit your career goals. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

CPIn Seminar: Postcolonial Perspectives in Educational Research Curriculum and Pedagogy Institute Seminar Series presents: Educational Research through Postcolonial Eyes: Re-viewing Privilege, Power and Periphery Presenter: Dr Ingrid Johnston (Associate Dean) Faculty of Education All are welcome! Refreshments will be provided. 2:00 p.m. 122 Education South Education Centre . <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education//pdfs/CPInSchedule2006.pdf>

Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute Seminar Series: Postcolonial Perspectives in Educational Research Dr Ingrid Johnston, Associate Dean, Faculty of Education: "Educational Research through Postcolonial Eyes: Re-viewing Privilege, Power and Periphery" 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. 122 Education South. <http://www.quasar.ualberta.ca/cpin/upcoming.htm>

Environmental Health Sciences Seminar Susan Richardson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Exposure Research Laboratory, will present: "The Next Generation of Drinking Water Disinfection By-Products and Health Issues." 2:00 p.m. 10-120 CSB.

Inside/OUT 2005/2006 Speakers' Series: Islam, Human Rights, and Reform in the 21st Century The 2005/06 Inside/OUT Speakers' Series Presents: 'Islam, Human Rights, and Reform in the 21st Century' An invited lecture by Irshad Manji Friday, March 3, 2006 3:00-4:00pm Tory Lecture Theatre 12 University of Alberta Ms. Manji is an acclaimed journalist, lecturer, human rights, and queer advocate based in Toronto. For further information, please visit her website: <http://www.muslim-refusenik.com> All members of the university and larger community are invited to attend this FREE lecture. A book signing will follow the presentation. To learn more about the main event sponsor Inside/OUT, please visit: <http://www.mailman.srv.ualberta.ca/mailman/listinfo/inside-out> 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Theatre 12 Tory Lecture Theatre Complex . http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education//pdfs/Irshad_Poster.pdf

MAR 4 2006

Hong Kong - 2006 President's Dinner U of A President Indira V. Samarasekera is visiting Asia this spring and an alumni dinner will be held in Hong Kong on Saturday March 4th. 6 pm - Wine Reception 7 pm - Buffet Dinner & Program Tickets HK \$600 per person HK \$300 for recent graduates (2003 and newer) HK \$7,200 per table of twelve HK \$10,000 per VIP table of twelve All proceeds from the 2006 President's Dinner will support the University of Alberta Hong Kong - Alberta Young Scholars Exchange Award. For more information , please contact Carol Yeung by email or in HK February 19 - March 5, 2006) by mobile (852) 9371-4490. 6:00 a.m. Hong Kong Club 4th Floor Garden Lounge No. 1 Jackson Road Central Hong Kong.

4.0 Resumes for Students in Education Both novice and experienced resume writers will benefit from attending this workshop. The focus is on learning a new conceptual framework developed at CaPS, which can be used to develop a new resume or revise an existing resume. Results from a survey about employers' expectations and preferences regarding resumes are also presented. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 4-02 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Assembling Your School Board Application Package Learn how to write an effective resume

and cover letter for teaching positions. In this workshop you will create a draft resume and cover letter or you can bring one you've already done to work on. Other components of your teaching application package, such as references and the autobiographical statement, will also be discussed. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 4-02 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Words, Words, Words - What's Shakespeare Talking About? Dr. Jonathan Hart, Professor, English and Film Studies 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Stanley A. Milner Library (Basement in the Edmonton Room), 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square.

MAR 5 2006

Arizona Alumni Brunch The University of Alberta Arizona Alumni Branch invites all alumni and their family and friends to the Annual Alumni Brunch held in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Guest Speaker: Dr. Mike Mahon Dean, Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation Topic: Recreation for Life - Health Implications of Leisure Details: 10:30 AM Sunday, 5 March 2006 Paradise Valley Country Club 7101 N Tatum Blvd Ph: 602.840.8100 (Approx. 20 mins from downtown Phoenix) A full brunch menu will be served Cost: Only \$25.00 (US) per person For more information and to RSVP: Dr. Norm Nichol Ph: 480.396.4491 10:30 a.m.

Science Sunday Look, touch, dig, measure, discover – kids do the research during the University of Alberta Museums' seventh annual Science Sunday! In a series of fun, hands-on activities led by University of Alberta students and experts, kids examine fossils under a microscope, take part in an archaeological dig, analyze adaptations of local animals, explore the secrets of meteorites, and much, much more! Science Sunday is an afternoon of discovery for kids aged 5 through 13. (Kids must be accompanied by an adult.) Admission by donation. Science Sunday is presented by the Department of Museums and Collections Services in partnership with the Friends of the University of Alberta Museums and the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and with the support of the Department of Anthropology, Department of Biological Sciences, and University Parking Services. 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration in the Earth Sciences Building, University of Alberta. <http://www.museums.ualberta.ca/justin/calendar.html#30>

MAR 6 2006

Resumes: The electronic transformation Learn how to adapt your resume into the appropriate electronic version for submission to employers. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

University Teaching Services (UTS) Effective Teaching with Technology Using current research and examples of best practices, this workshop explores the relationship between knowledge, learning, teaching, and the nature of media. Discussion will centre on how this information should inform the use of technology in the teaching environment. Gary Poole is the Director of the University of British Columbia's Teaching and Academic Growth Centre and co-author of the

book: *Effective Teaching with Technology in Higher Education: Foundations for Success*. Presenter: Gary Poole, University of British Columbia Please register for this session at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CAB 243.

Recruitment Seminar Dr. James Stafford, Department of Microbiology, University of Mississippi Medical Center, will present a seminar entitled "Identification and characterization of novel immunoregulatory receptors in an ectothermic vertebrate, the channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)". Dr. Stafford is a candidate for the Assistant. Associate Professor position in Comparative Immunology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Hosted by Dr. Jonathan Dennis. 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/>

MAR 7 2006

Dietary Fibre: The Missing Nutrient from our Diet Visiting Speaker Seminar by Dr. Michael McBurney, Professor and Department Head, Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Texas A & M University 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Classroom F WMC.

University Teaching Services (UTS) The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning The scholarship of teaching and learning has been defined as a form of inquiry that focuses on improving understanding and the quality of teaching and learning in higher education. In addition to improving the quality of individual courses and classrooms, the scholarship of teaching and learning holds promise for integrating the traditional pillars of teaching and research. This session addresses what the scholarship of teaching and learning is and explores some of the quantitative and qualitative measures that are being used to assess educational impact. Presenter: Gary Poole, University of British Columbia Please register for this session at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. CAB 219.

Going global: Applying for work abroad Learn about how to adapt your resume and cover letter for applying for work abroad, as well as about some of the ways that interviews for work abroad differ from interviews for work in North America. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:35 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Creative Works Reading by Taras Grescoe Taras Grescoe is a Montreal-based writer, the author of *Sacré Blues: An Unsentimental Journey through Quebec* (Macfarlane, Walter & Ross), a non-fiction portrait of contemporary Quebec that won Canada's Edna Staebler Award for Non-Fiction, two Quebec Writers' Federation Awards, a National Magazine Award (for an excerpted chapter), and was short-listed for the Writers' Trust Award. He is a frequent contributor to the New York Times, Salon, the Independent, and National Geographic Traveler, and has written features for *Savour*, the New York Times Magazine (substituting for William Safire), *Wired*, the Chicago Tribune Magazine, the Times of London, and *Condé Nast Traveller*. His latest book, *The End of Elsewhere: Travels Among*

the Tourists, a travelogue that is at once a history of leisure travel and a critique of mass tourism, was published last April and was also nominated for the Writers' Trust Award. Grescoe is currently working on *The Devil's Picnic*, a cross-cultural comparison of prohibitions, to be published soon by Bloomsbury (New York), Macmillan (London) and HarperCollins (Toronto). 3:30 p.m. HC L-3. <http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english>

Electrical & Computer Engineering Open House & Program Information Evening Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Engineering Physics, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering and Nanoengineering programs at the University of Alberta. The Department will be holding an Open House for all interested students and the general public. This will include displays, Q&A sessions with professors, current and former students, lab tours and research seminars. Free food and pop will be served. 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ETL Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) .

MAR 8 - 10 2006

Indigenous Scholars Conference Positioning Ourselves: Indigenous Knowledges Hosted by: Indigenous Peoples Education Specialization Scholars Educational Policy Studies Faculty of Education University of Alberta More details to follow <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education//pdfs/poster.pdf>

MAR 8 - 9, 2006

Voting- APIRG Board Member Election 2006 All APIRG members will be able to vote for APIRG Board Member Election 2006 at all the Students' Union polling stations located across campus. For locations for polling stations, please visit Students' Union websites. Students' Union Election Polling Stations. <http://www.apirg.org>

MAR 8 2006

Organizational Ethics for Healthcare: the "new kid on the block" Bioethics Week and Health Ethics Seminar 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Classroom B (Room 2K1.03), Walter Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre. <http://www.ualberta.ca/BIOETHICS/>

PHS Grand Rounds Guest Speaker: Dr Marcy Winget, Senior Outcomes Analyst, Alberta Cancer Board "Data Issues in Standardizing Definitions, Measures, and Reporting of Cancer 'Wait Times': A Three Province Feasibility Study" 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

Putting your BEd to work outside of the classroom Find out how Education graduates have put their degree to work outside of the classroom, as well as about tools, strategies and resources available to help you identify and explore your career options. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Introduction to Visualization (WestGrid





Stronger For Our Experience

People make companies.

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Inco Limited is one of the world's premier mining and metals companies and the world's second largest producer of nickel. Our world-class mineral reserve and resource base is among the best in the global nickel industry. We are also an important producer of copper, cobalt and precious and platinum-group metals, and a major producer of specialty nickel-based products, with an operations and marketing network present in over 28 countries.

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NEW GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

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Chemical / Metallurgical Engineers
Mine Engineers
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Mechanical Engineers
Electrical / Instrumentation Engineers
Geologists

Technology (Design):
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Mechanical Technologists
Electrical / Instrumentation Technologists
Metallurgical / Chemical Technologists

All applications must be received no later than 4 pm on Monday, February 13th, 2006.

"Inco is an equal opportunity employer."

For further information or to apply online, please visit the careers section at: www.inco.com or contact us at Phone: (204) 778-2693 Fax: (204) 778-2693

www.inco.com

Seminar Series) Join Jon Johansson, Programmer/Analyst, Academic Information and Communication Technology, for the final session in the Winter 2006 WestGrid Seminar Series. He will focus on basic techniques and algorithms for exploring data that are common to Scientific Visualization packages such as VTK, OpenDX and AVS/Express. His presentation will aid researchers who need to use visualization tools for exploring, understanding and communicating information about their data. To attend this session, please RSVP to Jon Johansson at access.grid@ualberta.ca. For a complete schedule of the Winter 2006 WestGrid Seminar Series, visit <http://www.westgrid.ca/seminars.html> 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Access Grid Room (315 General Services Building).

University Teaching Services (UTS) Forget Bells and Whistles Instructional technology has the potential to improve teaching and learning. Sometimes, however, we get carried away with the technology and forget that theories of teaching and learning must drive the process, not the bells and whistles of the latest presentation software or course management system. In this workshop, pedagogically appropriate uses of instructional technology are discussed. Presenter: Connie Varnhagen, Department of Psychology Please register for this session at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CAB 243.

Career Decision Making Strategies Are you unclear about what you can or want to do as a career? Perhaps you are looking to choose or change your program of study? This workshop will help you start the career-planning process. The Harrington-O'Shea Career Decision Making System will be used as an individual assessment tool. You will be asked to complete it prior to the workshop. 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 4-02 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

MAR 9 2006

Agape Learning Over Lunch: Social Justice Video Series AGAPE - A Sex, Sexual, and Gender Differences in Education and Culture Focus Group in the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta 2005 - 2006 Learning Over Lunch: Social Justice Video Series (Free Admission) Today's Video Presentation: "It's A Girl's World" This documentary exposes the largely hidden culture of girls in which social conflict in their friendships can set frightening and dangerous dynamics into motion. Guest Discussant: Dr. Dianne Oberg, Elementary Education AGAPE is a focus group set up to consider issues in relation to sex, sexual, and gender differences in education and culture. If you have a question about Agape or the Social Justice Video Series, please email Dr. André P. Grace at andre.grace@ualberta.ca or Kris Wells at kwells@ualberta.ca or Contact the Agape Project Office at 492-0772 or visit us @ 5-181K in the Education North Building. 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. 7-102 Education North Education Centre. http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education/pdfs/agape2005_2.pdf

Tracking the trends: Understanding labour market information Gain a better understanding of labour market information, including some of the current trends, and how this information can be used in the career planning and work search processes. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:35 p.m. - 1:20 p.m., <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Research on Aging: Nibble, Nosh and Network III This discussion and poster session is an opportunity to meet faculty, students, and research staff interested in aging-related research, to discuss

current activities, and to identify possible future collaborations. Please pre-register by March 3, 2006. 1:25 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Maple Leaf Room, Lister Centre. <http://www.ualberta.ca/aging>

Forest Industry Lecture Dr. Luc Bouthillier from the University of Laval, Quebec, will be giving a lecture on "Getting to know the tango between forest and people: Social issues in Canadian Forestry". 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theater. <http://www.rr.ualberta.ca/>

Our North America -- Canada-Mexico Relations: A Contemporary Balance The Department of Political Science presents Athanasios Hristoulas of the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México in Mexico City and Fred Judson of the Department of Political Science at the U of A speaking on Canada-Mexico Relations: A Contemporary Balance 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tory Basement 95. <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~nastudi/SpeakersSeries/>

Vadim Kukushkin (Grant Notley Postdoctoral Fellow) "A Hotbed of Lawlessness: Immigrant Workers and the Law in the Crow's Nest Pass, 1905-1930" 3:30 p.m. 2-58 Tory Building.

University Teaching Services (UTS) PowerPoint Custom Templates This hands-on session takes participants on a step-by-step design journey by creating custom pages for a presentation. Participants can email their creations to their computers. Presenter: Kevin Moffitt, Technology Training Centre Limited computer workstations available; first registered, first seated. Please register at www.ualberta.ca/~uts 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Technology Training Centre, lower level of Cameron Library.

Dr Felipe Ruan "Don Quixote and the Moriscos" "Dr Felipe Ruan is a specialist in Spanish literature of the Golden Age. His talk will offer a new insight on attitudes to the Moriscos - Muslims who remained in Spain after the Christian Reconquest." The Edmonton Mediterranean Institute was formed to foster knowledge of and interest in all the countries of the Mediterranean region, in both the past and present. It brings together teachers, students, and members of the public for a varied series of lectures each year, usually enriched with visual and/or musical illustration. The Institute also helps to support the work of the Canadian archeological institutions in Athens and Cairo. For further information please contact Dr. N. Wickenden, Department of History and Classics at nicholas.wickenden@ualberta.ca. 7:30 p.m. Tory Breezeway Rm 2 Tory Building.

MAR 10 2006

What the heck are you going to with that? Career advice for Science students Are you trying to figure out your career options with a BA? Find out how other Arts graduates have put their degree to work, and about resources and strategies you can use to learn about occupations that fit your career goals. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

Near Death Experiences: Pox virus control of apoptotic cell death Michele Barry, Medical Microbiology and Immunology, University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Near Death Experiences: Pox virus control of apoptotic cell death" 3:30 p.m. M-149 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

for the annual Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, WH Alexander Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award. The purpose of these awards is to recognize excellent teaching, to publicize such excellence to the University and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta. Nominations are made by Faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those Faculties. Nominations should be made through a Faculty committee and submitted by the Faculty to the Secretary of GFC UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone needing assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms. Bente Roed, Teaching Awards Facilitator, Office of the Registrar and Student Awards, B19B Administration Building (492-2644). The deadline for receipt of award nominations is

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- lack of accessibility to university buildings and resources.

Contact the Office of Human Rights

Room 289 Central Academic Building (CAB)

Phone and TTY: 492-7325

human.rights@ualberta.ca

www.ualberta.ca/~hurights



ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (Finance and Administration): ACADEMIC STAFF NOMINATIONS

Phyllis Clark's First-Term Review as Vice-President (Finance and Administration) is now due. Vice-President Clark has advised President Indira Samarasekera that she would like to stand for a second term of office. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr Jim Edwards, President Samarasekera has therefore asked that an Advisory Review Committee for Vice-President (Finance and Administration) be struck.

The composition of the Advisory Review Committee for Vice-President (Finance and Administration) includes two members of the full-time and continuing part-time faculty (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or their counterparts in A1.6) AND one member from Categories A1.2 (APOs), A1.3 (FSOs), or A1.4 (Librarians), none of whom hold administrative positions as defined in Section 22.3.2(4) of the GFC Policy Manual. Staff who are on leave are not eligible to serve. Dr Samarasekera will chair the meeting of the Advisory Review Committee, which has already been scheduled for a full day on April 20, 2006.

Written nominations supported by the signatures of five members of Category A1.0 (the full-time and/or part-time academic staff), not including the nominee, should be submitted to the Secretary to General Faculties Council, Mr Garry Bodnar, 2-5 University Hall. Nominations must be received by Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 12:00pm (noon). Nominees must agree to stand for election to the Advisory Review Committee. As stated above, GFC regulations require that nominees should not be holders of an administrative position, such as Dean or Department Chair, since administrators are already represented on the Advisory Review Committee.

The full composition of this 14-member Advisory Review Committee for Vice-President (Finance and Administration), and the nomination and election procedures, are contained in Section 102 of the GFC Policy Manual, which is available in the University Secretariat (2-5 University Hall) and online at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/gfcpolicymanual/.

If you have any questions about eligibility to serve or to nominate, please call Garry Bodnar at 492-4733.

notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail public.affairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2006 Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Bioengineering

Call for presentations and papers for the 2006 Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Bioengineering, on July 16-19th, 2006, in Edmonton, Alberta. The theme of the conference is "Seeing I to I - Integrity and Integration in Bioengineering". Submit your proposal related to bioengineering in: food and bio-products; agricultural production; machinery systems; soil, water, and air; building systems; animal welfare; information technology; waste management and bio-residuals; renewable energy and biofuels; emerging technologies and issues. Submit your proposal by March 15th, 2006. Fantasyland Hotel and Conference Centre, West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton, AB. <http://www.bioeng.ca/Events/Edm2006/index.htm>

AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) announces to the University community that nominations are now being sought

**For complete University of Alberta job listings visit:
www.hrs.ualberta.ca/**

Friday, February 24, 2006 at 4:30 pm. Please note that, in most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures. 2-5 University Hall. https://www.conman.ualberta.ca/stellent/groups/public/@academic/documents/policy/pp_cmp_060320.hcsp

3M TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS 2006

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The 3M Teaching Fellowships Award is a joint project of 3M Canada Inc. and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), initiated in 1986 by STLHE. Up to 10 awards are given annually. The University of Alberta has 24 3M Teaching Fellows. The 3M Teaching Fellowships represent Canada's only national award for university educators. Any individual teaching at a Canadian university (regardless of discipline or level of appointment) is eligible. An all expense paid three-day (November 4-6, 2006) retreat at the Fairmont Le Château Montebello is a main component of the award. Nomination informa-

tion is available at www.mcmaster.ca/3Mteachingfellowships. Email enquiries should be directed to Arshad Ahmad, or (514) 848-2424 ext. 2928 or 2793. Assistance is also available from Bente Roed, Academic Awards and Ceremonies, B19 Administration Building, 492-2644. The nomination package must be received at Bente Roed's office by noon, February 15, 2006 to meet the external deadline of March 3, 2006. B19 Administration Building.

Nominations Deadline - Academic Women's Association Graduate Student Award
The Academic Women's Association Graduate Student Award Nominations are due on March 1, 2006. Complete details on the applications requirements, including the application form may be found at: http://www.ualberta.ca/~awa/awards_graduate.htm http://www.ualberta.ca/~awa/awards_graduate.htm

APPLYING TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Join Dr. Carin Holroyd from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada as she explains the new pro-

grams and funding opportunities with APF at this brown-bag session.

APF funds research activities, conferences, graduate and media fellowships, and special initiatives that assist in the enhancement of Canadian capacity for public policy research and analysis focusing on the Asia Pacific region. This year, the Foundation will be dispersing between \$200,000 and \$300,000 worth of grants and that amount is expected to increase significantly over the coming years. Applications may be submitted in English or French.

Categories:

- Canada in Asia Publications Series
- Policy Research Grants
- Conference Support
- Post-Graduate Research Fellowships
- Media Grants
- Special Initiative Funding.

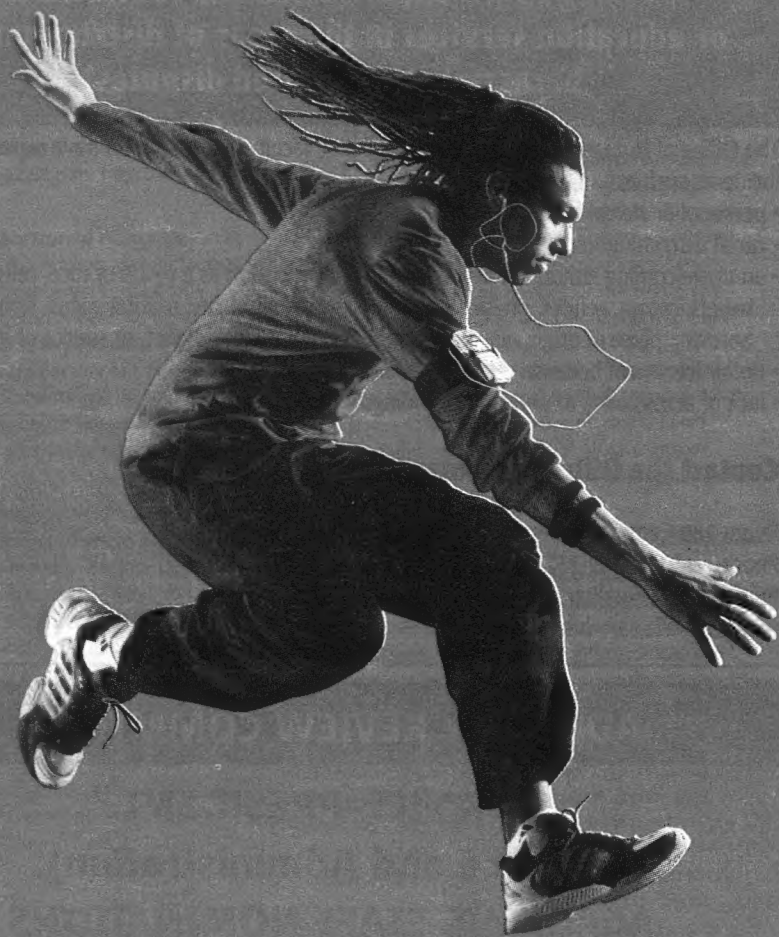
Deadlines for all grant programs are listed in Target Point, the U of A's eNewsletter that helps with finding and applying for funding.

Register at The Learning Shop to reserve your

spot today. 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 3-10 Business. <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/listCourses.jsp>

2006-2007 KILLAM ANNUAL PROFESSORSHIPS

Applications for the 2006-2007 Killam Annual Professorships are now available. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2006-2007 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior University administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one Faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3500 prize and a commemorative plaque. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.



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421-4540

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Costco North
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12924 - 97 St.
473-2355

EAST

Capilano Mall
(outside entrance by Safeway)
450-6880

Millwoods Main Street Mall
6558 - 28 Ave. (by Tim Horton's)
440-2812

6839 - 83 St. (Argyll Rd.)
465-5271

SOUTH

6031 Gateway Blvd.
438-2355

9128 - 51 Ave.
438-5114

South Edmonton Common
485-9812

South Edmonton Common
(inside Superstore)
701-3355

Southgate Centre
434-5620

Southgate Centre
439-0435

Costco South
909-4544

9261 - 34 Ave.
702-6001

Hub Mall
8921 - 112 St.
432-3108

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West Edmonton Mall Phase I
(lower level near
Galaxy Land entrance)
484-4758

West Edmonton Mall Phase II
(by skating rink)
413-9855

West Edmonton Mall Phase III
(by London Drugs)
443-3040

10013 - 170 St.
408-8917

10608 - 170 St.
489-2255

Costco West
907-0330

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The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be substantial contributions to the community outside the University, above and beyond what is usually expected of a professor, as evidenced by community involvement directly linked to the applicant's University responsibilities and activities.

Awards are tenable for twelve months commencing 1 July, 2006. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 3-7 University Hall, by 4:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 24, 2006. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in October 2006.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpresearch/>

Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Officer, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 28342 or email: annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

J. GORDIN KAPLAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The Office of the Vice-President (Research) takes pleasure in announcing the

2006 Laureates of the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research: Norman C. Beaulieu (iCORE Research Chair, Canada Research Chair and Professor, Broadband Wireless Communications Faculty of Engineering) and Royston Greenwood (Telus Professor of Strategic Management University of Alberta School of Business).

The Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. Reception will follow. Everyone is welcome. Please watch Folio in March for features on these two outstanding researchers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

A Selection Committee for the Chair of the Department of Strategic Management and Organization has been established. The incumbent, Dr. Yonatan Reshef, has agreed to stand for another term. In accordance with GFC regulations, the Committee is soliciting comments/suggestions by February 24, 2006. All correspondence should be sent to Michael B. Percy, Dean, School of Business, 4-40 Business Building.

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORSHIPS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Selection Committee for University Professorships is pleased to invite nominations for the Spring 2006 competition. The title of University Professor is the highest honour this University can bestow on a member of its academic staff and is granted only to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the

areas of scholarly research, teaching, service to the University and the community-at-large. An integral component to be expected of such distinguished performance is a breadth of scholarly interest and achievement that extends beyond the normal departmental and arbitrary disciplinary boundaries. Thus, the University Professor is a member of the staff whose scholarly works merit, or have merited, national or international attention; whose teaching ability is widely known and respected by colleagues and students alike as exceptional; and who has earned from the community a regard which favours both the individual and the University.

Any individual appointed to a full-time academic position without term at the University may be appointed a University Professor. Any member or members of the academic staff of the University may nominate a candidate with the candidate's permission.

Formal nominations, including supporting documents, should be submitted to Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), 2-10 University Hall, by 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2006.

Detailed criteria for nominations may be obtained from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), telephone 492-2280.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CENTENARY 2008

With planning now underway for the University of Alberta's centenary celebrations in 2008, the campus community is invited to submit proposals for funding consideration for centenary celebration initiatives. Application deadline is March 31, 2006.

Please note: initiatives must take place between January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008.

For guidelines and application form please go to: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/2008/callfor-proposals.cfm> or contact centenary project administrator Vanessa Hughes at 492-9416 or vanessa.hughes@exr.ualberta.ca.

SOCIOLOGY, CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Chair Selection Committee has received and accepted one application for the position of Chair and it gratefully accepts the application of Professor Harvey Krahn.

The Committee held a public forum on Wednesday, February 8th, in which Professor Krahn discussed his vision for the future direction of the Department.

Written comments on Professor Krahn's suitability for the position of Chair to the Committee are now being accepted. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, kindly email your comments to Dean Daniel Woolf, Chair of the Sociology Chair Selection Committee, to 6-33 Humanities Centre or artsdean@ualberta.ca, by noon, Friday, March 3rd, 2006. Submissions are to be sent in confidence and will be forwarded directly to me and other members of the Selection Committee solely for the purpose of the review. Confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with FOIPP regulations.

positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit www.hrs.ualberta.ca.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, LAB-ON-CHIP BIOTECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Our laboratory has a position available in a project of integrating life science and molecular biology protocols onto microfabricated devices. Our primary goal is the development of medical diagnostics. We seek a person with a PhD in an experimental field in the life sciences, natural sciences or engineering. Anyone with experience with the conventional techniques described below, and with an interest in their miniaturization, is a suitable candidate for the position.

- This multi-year project is a vibrant collaboration between labs in the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine & Dentistry. The project involves the transfer of conventional life science protocols to microfluidic ("lab on a chip") devices. Most of this activity will take place in a laboratory that is jointly-operated by life science and engineering researchers. The position requires:
- A demonstrated ability to troubleshoot and think critically in an experimental environment.
 - Good communication/interpersonal skills.
 - The ability to work in a diverse interdisciplinary environment.
 - Demonstrated experimental experience in biochemistry, biophysics, analytical chemistry

or molecular biology, particularly in electrophoretic or other separation methods or in the development or troubleshooting of assays (chemical or biological).

- Demonstrated ability to productively direct one's own research, as well as that of others.

Applicants will have a PhD with a demonstrated record of productivity in an experimental area. The successful candidate will be a junior investigator and will participate fully in research and related scholarly activities. He/she will take a leadership role, work closely with the research team, mentor graduate students and manage long-term research projects to completion.

In order to apply, please send a cover letter and a CV that includes: 1) a list of research & development projects participated in, 2) a list of publications (please describe your role in each), and 3) the names and contact information of at least three references.

Please send these via email to:

Professor Chris Backhouse, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering chrisb@ualberta.ca with a carbon copy (cc) to krista@ece.ualberta.ca For each of the above email addresses Please also use the subject line of "ATTN: RA - Integration Position"

In case of difficulty in communications, please contact Krista at +1 (780) 492-8336.

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OWL'S Journey

mapped in feathers

Researcher probes plumage to trace their steps

By Bev Betkowski

A University of Alberta researcher is reading bird feathers like tea leaves, to track the changing migration patterns of a tiny Alberta owl.

By conducting isotope analysis on feathers plucked from northern saw-whet owls, researchers can gain clues as to where the birds are spending their summers. Graduate student Chuck Priestley is hoping to find out why some of the male birds seem to be staying home in Alberta year round, while others wing their way to warmer climes.

"We want to find out why they seem to have a dual strategy for dealing with the winter" said Priestley, a Masters student in conservation biology at the U of A. Studies conducted since 1950 have shown that the robin-sized, brown-and-white spotted species makes large-scale movements each year to places like the northeastern United States. Over the years, four birds banded in Alberta have been discovered in areas like Vancouver and Wisconsin.

Migration counts occur at more than 100 research stations scattered across North America. If these stations start catching fewer owls each year it would be

hard to say, with our current knowledge, whether the owl population has declined or more owls are wintering in the north. Skewed numbers could, in turn, mislead conservationists in determining whether a bird population is in danger of extinction.

For the past three years, Priestley has been collecting hundreds of owl feathers that will shed light on where the males are spending their time. "We are looking at the isotope composition of a feather, which is connected to the water that came from the prey that the bird ate."

Feathers collected from one saw-whet can reveal up to three years' of movement information, including where the bird originally hatched and where the bird bred during the first two years of its adult life, Priestley said.

As part of his research, Priestley is asking the public to share information with him about the northern saw-whet owl, commonly identified in rural Alberta as a barn owl. He'd like to hear from you if you know of any currently occupied saw-whet owl nests. To contact Priestley, e-mail him at charles@ualberta.ca or call him at (780) 984-6957. ■



Photos: Lisa Priestley



Conservation biology Masters student Chuck Priestley is monitoring the comings and goings of saw-whet owls, to determine their movement patterns. His findings indicate unusual vacation habits. Some owls remain in one area year-round, while others venture as far off as the Gulf of Mexico.

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